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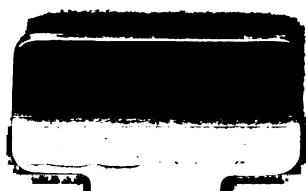
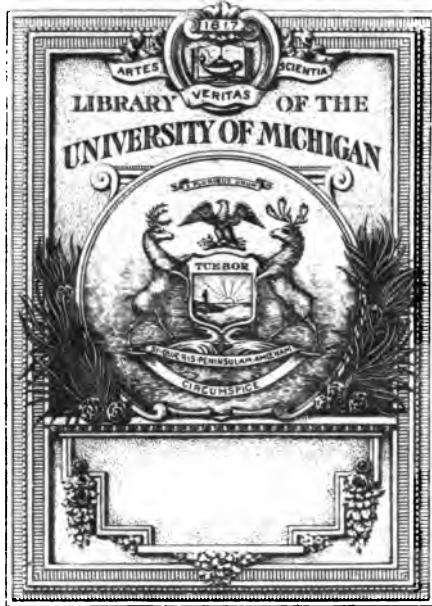
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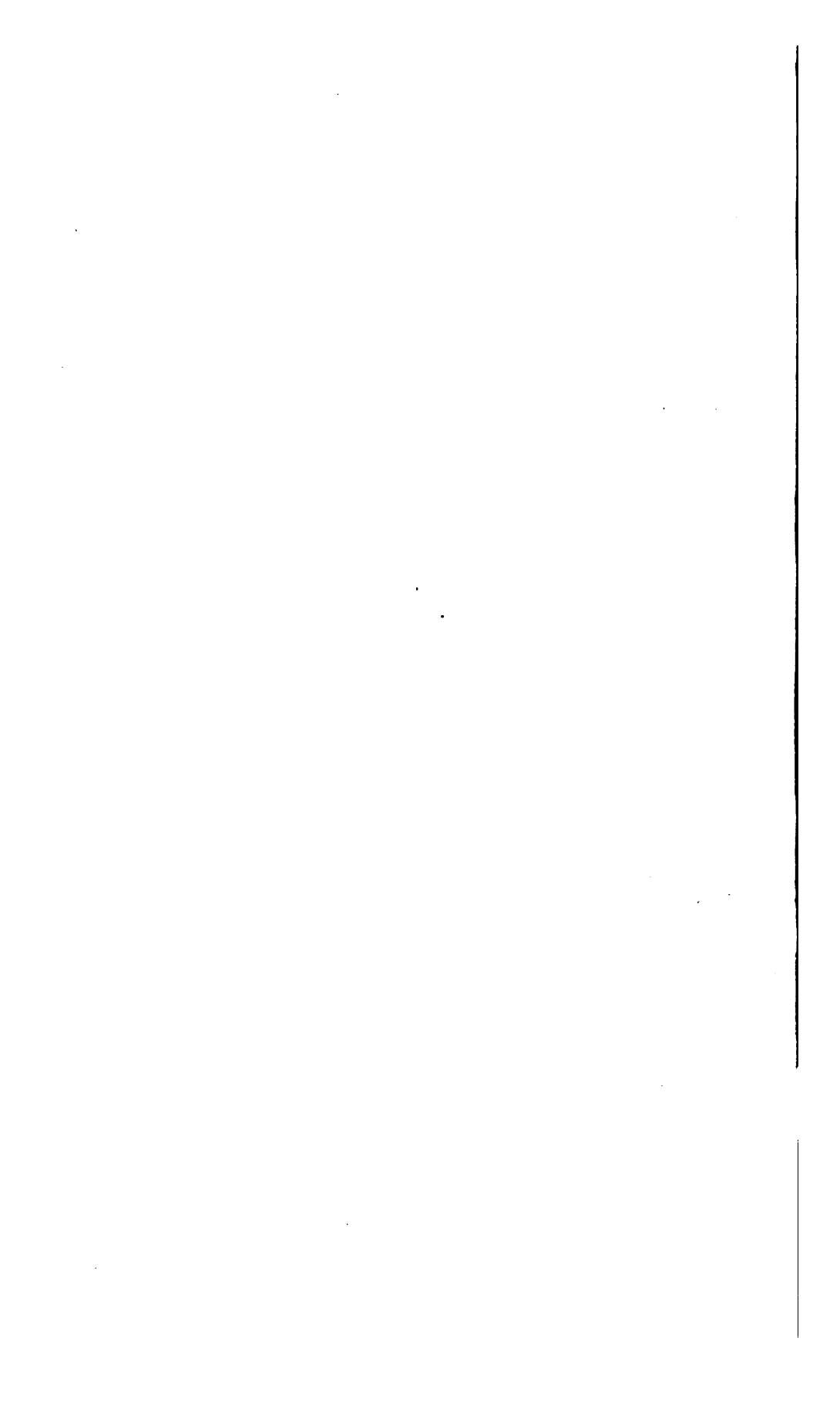
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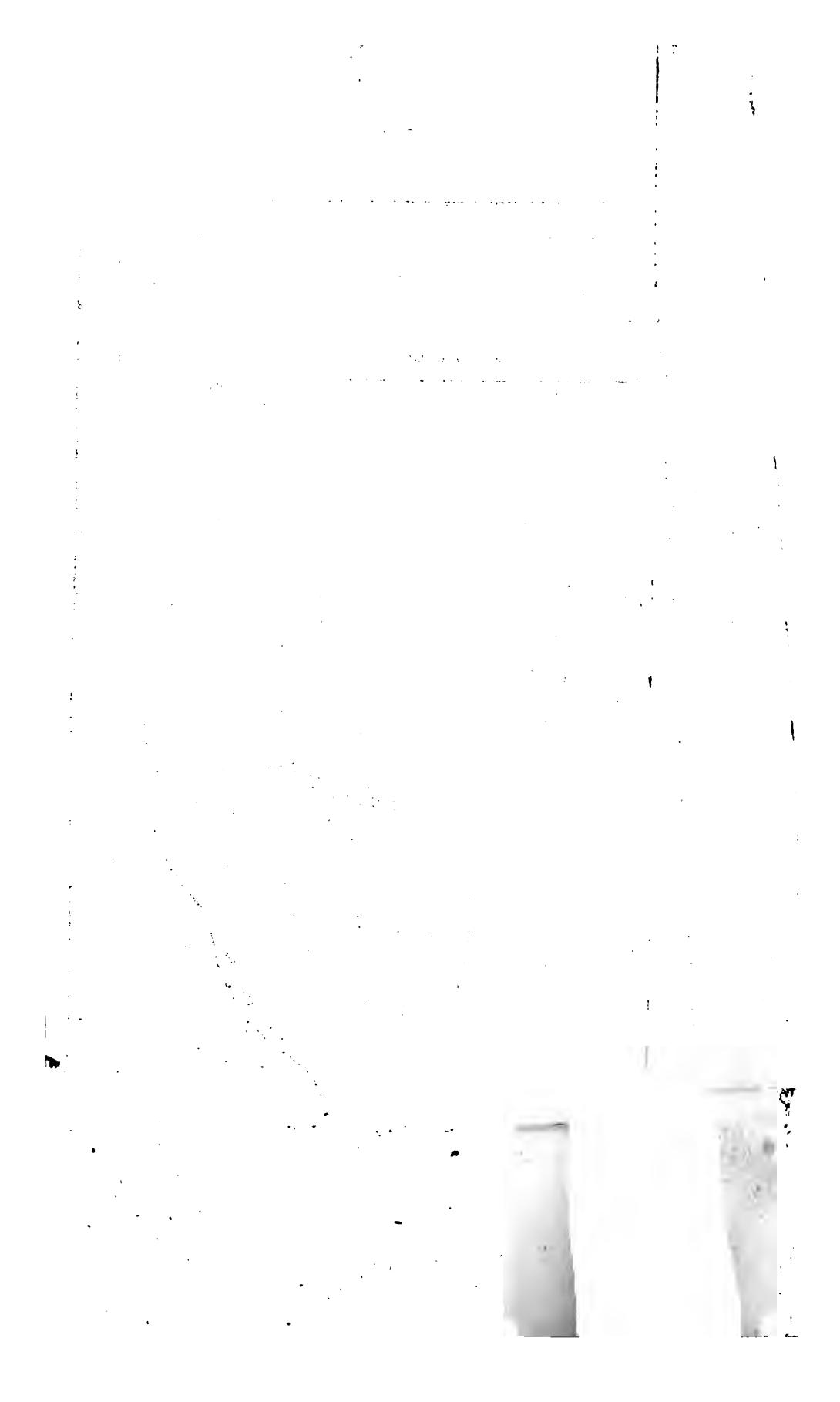
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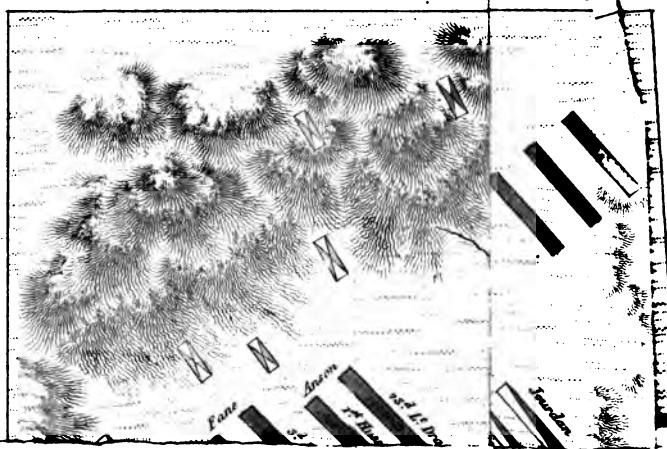


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Hawker, Peter, 1786 - 1858

JOURNAL

OF A

REGIMENTAL OFFICER

DURING

THE RECENT CAMPAIGN

IN

PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

UNDER

LORD VISCOUNT WELLINGTON.

WITH A

CORRECT PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF TALAVERA.

" — quantus equis, quantus adest viris
Sudor!" HORACE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1810.

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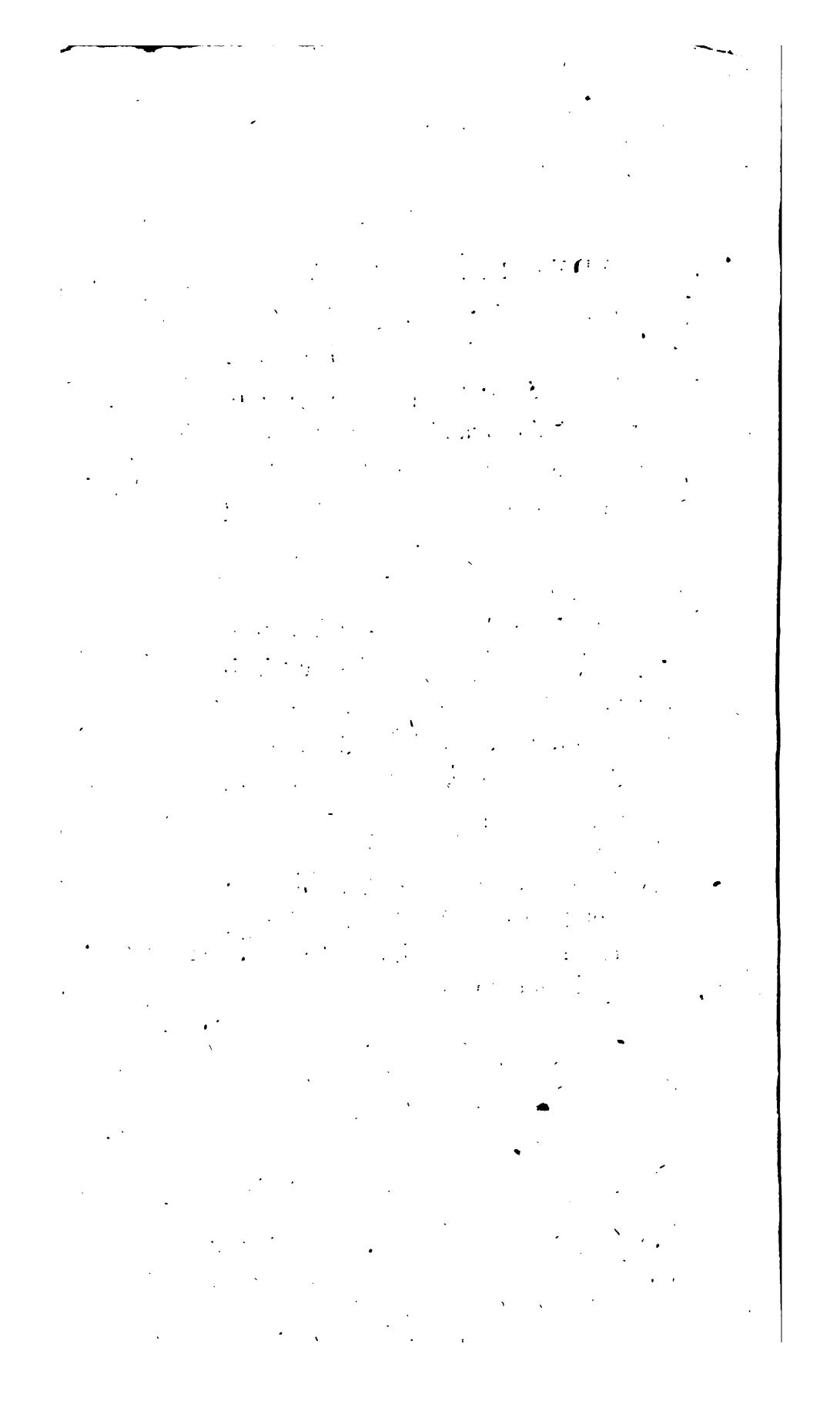
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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE contents of the following pages (never intended for the public eye) were hastily noted down amidst the scenes attempted to be delineated; and the author's sufferings from a wound have precluded him the possibility of afterwards correcting them.

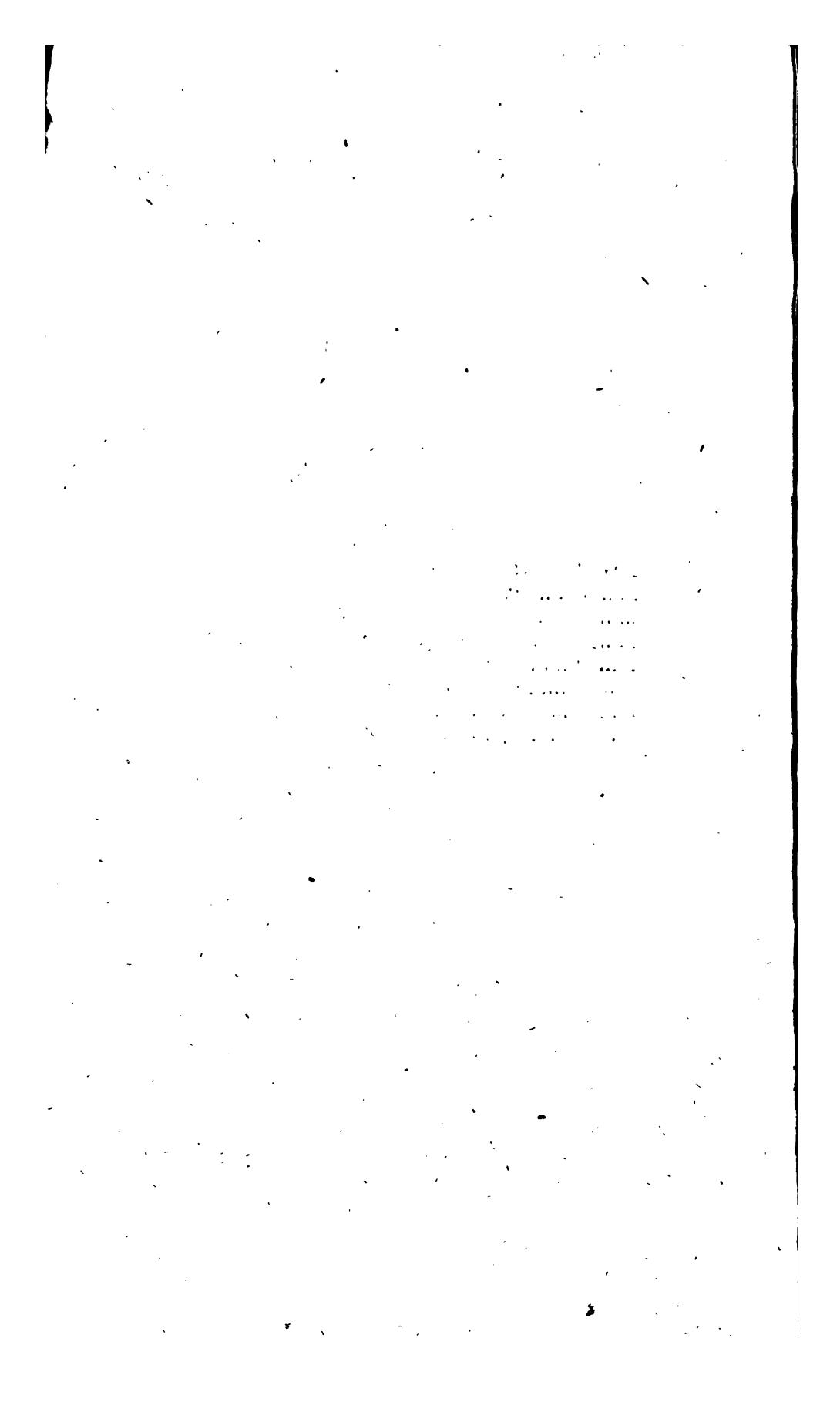
This candid statement will, it is hoped, plead for inaccuracies and frivolous incidents; and those persons who are *most able to criticise* will no doubt have the *liberality* to consider the *disadvantages* under which this narrative makes its appearance.

* * * The intervening dates omitted throughout the Journal are those only on which there occurred neither change of place nor circumstances.



ERRATA.

Page 4, line 3, for *were* read *are*.
..... 20 2, for *vintins* read *vintims*.
..... 28 20, for *buildings* read *Burlings*.
..... 32 2, dele the word *and* after *generals*.
..... 44 6, for *Ingelezes* read *Ingleses*.
..... 58 15, dele the word *of* before *the passage*.
..... 81 12, for *Astrello* read *Estrella*.
..... 88 15, for *but* read *and*.



JOURNAL

AN OFFICER, &c. &c.

1808. *November* 19.—LEFT town to join my regiment, which was on the march for Falmouth, and ordered to halt at Exeter and adjacent places. On the 21st arrived at Tiverton, the station of my squadron; where it remained till the 29th, when, agreeably to a route received the preceding evening, we marched as follows:—The above day to Crediton; 30th, to Oakhampton; *December* the 1st, to Launceston; 2d, to Bodmin; 3d, to Truro; and on the 4th arrived at Falmouth, and immediately commenced embarkation from the quay. We were soon on board, and sailed out to the middle of the harbour, to remain at anchor till further orders. The transport (a *ci-de-*

vant collier *) in which it was my lot to be stowed, was about the dirtiest in the fleet, from the slovenly and drunken habits of her master, who, to do him justice, I think approached nearer to the ursine breed than any of his floating fraternity. With this edifying messmate I remained till the 15th; when, at seven A. M., a signal for sailing was hoisted; and at twelve the whole fleet got under weigh with a fair wind. After clearing land, the Commodore made signal that the empty ships attached to our convoy were bound for Vigo, and we for the Tagus. This was the first official intelligence we received of our destination.

17th.—Entered the Bay of Biscay, going at the rate of nine knots an hour.

19th.—Towards five P. M. we had to weather a very severe gale, accompanied with showers of hail, which drove us violently, and considerably damaged our rigging. Towards dusk it rather abated. From

* She was then scarcely sea-worthy; very soon after sprung a leak, and was discharged the service as unsafe.

the darkness and repeated squalls, during the night we lost our convoy. We, however, regained it early in the morning.

20th.—About four P. M. made the Burlings (a cluster of small islands about forty miles from the Rock of Lisbon), when signal was made for lying-to. We there continued beating about till next morning. It blew very hard, attended with an extremely high sea, which made the ship labour so much that it was impossible to stand, or even lie in our births without danger of getting our heads broke. We were rolled from side to side with the greatest violence, and without a moment's intermission. This, together with the continual creaking of the ship, the stifled state we were in by having our dead-lights up and being without air, added to the effluvia and suffocation of a smoking chimney, kept us the whole night in the very essence of misery.

21st.—At six A. M. we got under sail, and at twelve came in full view of the Rock of Lisbon. The villages interspersed on the

sides of this grand promontory, with the serrated summits of the rocks, many of which were crowned with churches and towers, form a novel and truly interesting scene. About two we entered the Tagus, with a steady breeze ; and having passed the Fort and Castle of St. Julian, the City of Lisbon opened to our view in all its splendour. The day being remarkably fine heightened the beauties of the scene, while the British fleet in the fore-ground gave a finish to the picture. At five came to anchor about half a mile from the town, where we waited for orders.

24th.—At half past four in the afternoon we began to disembark, and it was dusk before we marched off. We proceeded to Belem, a suburb of Lisbon four miles from the Quay.

When we arrived there it was quite dark. The confusion and scramble that ensued in the streets for forage and provision, where neither English nor Portuguese could understand each other, may be easily

conceived. The men went to the barracks at this place, and the officers were served with billets on private houses ; but some days elapsed before we could find out the *Dons* on whom our company was to be *inflicted*. In the interim, we were forced to lay down where we could, many officers taking up their quarters under their horses.

This being Christmas eve, I went at midnight to visit the convent of St. Jeronimo. Although no advocate for the pomp and ostentation of popish ceremonials, the service was performed with so much solemnity that it was impossible entirely to withhold admiration. The organ was peculiarly fine, and in very good hands : the friar who played it evinced the greatest skill in his performance of the anthems. The architecture of the convent is considered a master-piece of the kind ; but being night, my view was confined to the interior decorations.

28th.—Went to the play at Lisbon. The theatre is in every respect inferior to those

of our own metropolis. The entertainments of the evening consisted of a comedy, which was performed with a great deal of low buffoonery, followed by a ballet. The dancers, both male and female, displayed great agility and strength of muscle; but of the *materials required to captivate* they were certainly not in possession; gracefulness was here very deficient. The scenery was wretched in the extreme. The most I can say in favour of the performance must be bestowed on the orchestra; as the few musicians who composed it played with more attention and expression than our London fiddlers, who emphatically call themselves professors of music.

29th.—Rode to the grand Aqueduct, which, with the scenery around, and the extensive prospect it commands, afforded ample gratification for the bad roads and stony hills I had to ascend. The oranges and lemons hung so conveniently, that I had only to pluck them when thirsty, without the trouble of dismounting.

30th.—The army received instructions to march; and our first division was ordered to advance the succeeding morning, on its way to the frontiers; but this was countermanded before night.

31st.—Went to the Italian opera at St. Carlos, which is considered the most fashionable entertainment in Lisbon. The house is good, but in point of decoration is inferior to ours. The orchestra department, consisting of about forty musicians, was most ably conducted; but the singing was far short of what I had been led to expect. The vocal performers displayed no execution, and, with the exception of two or three leading characters, were equally deficient in taste and expression. The disciples of Terpsichore, so far as *nature* was concerned, were extremely awkward; and though I allow their dancing to be very good, yet their thick ankles and robust limbs rather excited laughter than admiration. But their *chef-d'œuvre* compensated for all defects: I mean, their style of action in the *ballet*, which was graceful and expressive.

1809. January 2d.—This morning I devoted to the inspection of Belem palace, formerly one of the most splendid royal residences in Europe. It has been sadly altered within a few months: the French have not only stripped it of every picture and ornament at all portable, but *mutilated the very walls*, in their rapacious efforts to rob them of all that was valuable. Only two inferior rooms, and a small chapel, remain in any tolerable repair. A variety of packages lay scattered about the hall, which JUNOT, in his hurry, had not time to dispatch: they chiefly contained precious marbles, and sculpture of most excellent workmanship. The Gardens, which are magnificent, and ornamented by masterly pieces of statuary, could formerly boast of one of the finest aviaries. The *building* indeed remains, but its motley-feathered tenantry (collected from every quarter of the globe) are nearly extirpated. The greatest havock was made among them by a puppy named BEAUMARNOIS (of course one of the NAPOLEON dynasty), who resided here some time, and during his stay had the aviary put in re-

quisition, not to gratify his *eye* or his *ear*, but his glutinous *appetite*: his favourite relish was a *canary*, and he was every morning, for his breakfast, served with about a dozen of these unfortunate finches. It appeared, however, he had a *fellow-feeling* for birds of prey, as the vultures, and the whole of the falcon tribe, have continued unmolested. There are also remaining some wild beasts, which the *French* seem to have treated with *equal respect*.

9th. — Having procured an interpreter, I, with a party, crossed the Tagus. We landed in Port Brandon, opposite Belem Castle. Nearly four miles up the road, there is a tract of wood, about eight leagues in circumference, called the King's Forest. We had made this excursion for a day's sport with the Portuguese game, hearing that the forest abounded with red-legged partridges and woodcocks, and knowing that it formerly was one of the Prince Regent's favourite beats when he went for a *grande chasse*. We, however, found nothing the whole day but a few rabbits, and returned

without getting a shot. In the course of our walk, we passed several plants which had been grubbed up, and discovered many places where wild boars had lately been. Notwithstanding our game-bags were empty, we returned pleased with the excursion, as the scenery made amends for our bad sport.

This wood is entirely composed of evergreens and short aromatic shrubs. The ground being hilly, you sometimes, by getting on an eminence, see over miles of the forest; but your extensive prospect, being over a continued region of firs, is one dark green, gradually fading, from distance, to a dim blue.

10th.—Visited the museum at Belem, which contains an extensive collection in natural history. It was principally founded by the Prince Regent, and has attached to it an excellent botanic garden. This museum is divided into two large apartments: the first contains a valuable collection of minerals, in which the finest specimens of

all the Brasilian and other precious stones are to be found, as well as a great variety of fossils. This leads to the second, which is filled with beasts, birds, insects, and fishes, in high preservation, with a beautiful collection of shells *.

11th.—Our regiment received orders to reembark; and, on the evening of the 12th, marched for that purpose to Lisbon; where, in consequence of being unable to get the detachment on board, we lay at picquet all night in a stable.

13th.—At seven in the morning we commenced embarkation; and it was above two hours before we were on board, as the vessel lay far off in the harbour, and our horses were conveyed to her in boats.

14th.—The instructions were recalled, and the Nautilus sent off with dispatches:

* Soon after, all these things were packed up, to be sent to the Brazils; it being thought that the British were about to evacuate the country.

we therefore remained at anchor without a commodore, and totally ignorant of our destination.

24th.—Returned on shore, and went with a large party on an excursion to the Rock of Lisbon, which is about four leagues beyond Belem. After being driven in a calèche for near five hours, at the rate of Russell's *Exeter Fly*, we reached the town of Cintra.—I must not forget to revert to the neat appearance of the roads we had passed ; which, with the exception of places out of repair, were regularly paved like a street; fenced on both sides with hedges of the most beautiful geraniums ; and surrounded, in every direction, by what in England would be considered the choicest exotics.—They are in unison with the paradise to which they lead !

To describe the environs of Cintra would be a task for which I have unfortunately neither time nor abilities. The Rock itself would claim a volume, on the variety of its

ancient monuments ; and the views around require the pencil of a first-rate artist.

Having taken some refreshment, and hired asses, we proceeded to the Rock. The structure of the convent of Pina, and the Moorish castle upon the very pinnacle of this stupendous height, add to its scenery the most terrific grandeur ; and the serrated summits, shooting up like crystals, are about two thousand four hundred feet, nearly perpendicular, from the sea. The ponderous cliffs stand one upon another with the appearance of every moment falling ; and their broken masses threaten destruction to the traveller. An ancient Moorish castle, constructed on this rock, has the same awful look ; and is so built, that the walls and towers are carried from one of these massive stones, sixty yards in girth, to another. Having surveyed these, we sallied forth on our Jerusalem poneys to ascend the Passes, and to arrive at the convent and castle.—The safety and agility with which the donkeys climb up the hills

and scramble through the stones is scarcely to be credited.

Having performed our tedious and fatiguing ascent, we reached the convent of Pina, through which we were conducted by an old friar, whose venerable look gave the cloisters additional solemnity. This place is remarkable for its plainness; and the occupiers, unlike most of their monastic brethren, seem to have no earthly treasure to boast of. We saw no one but our guide, although, in the refectory, there were covers laid for fourteen.

The Moorish castle next attracted our attention. Its situation is equally romantic with that of the convent. The structure is rude; but in some of the towers we could plainly discern the remains of paintings on the stones. There are still, in tolerable preservation, a multiplicity of ancient monuments, and many with inscriptions in Moorish characters. We had scarcely finished our inspection, when a very thick

fog came on : indeed we had been some time in the clouds when first we reached Pina, as a mist enveloped us before we had half way ascended the height. We descended by the same pass, and soon reached a clear atmosphere. A grand scene then presented itself in different features, the fog having obscured the greater part of its majestic eminences. Our view was therefore circumscribed by orange, lemon, and other fruit-trees, with which its bases were encircled. Evergreens of all kinds are seen intersecting the rocks, and shooting from the fissures to their very summits. Aromatic exhalations from various shrubs, and the foliage of innumerable vines, are everywhere presented, and exhibit a vegetation peculiar to this luxuriant garden of nature.

Having thus agreeably passed our time till late in the evening, we returned to the inn, where an excellent dinner had been waiting our arrival. Every thing was served up in the *British style*; as Madam Cavigioli, our landlady, although married to an Italian, was an Irish woman. The

landlord and his brother attended us during dinner, and afterwards amused us cheerfully with vocal and instrumental music. We then returned to our beds, which were the more agreeable from being in the English fashion.

25th.—Waking early in the morning, the prospect from the window even exceeded my expectations; the town of Cintra under our hotel, and the verdure of the plains fading to an air tint, was one of the richest scenes. The clouds gradually uncapping the distant heights, and leaving their purple heads, contrasted with the opening dawn, contributed to the scene more than sublunary beauties. Our party soon sallied forth with their sketch-books, and made the most of this fine opportunity to collect some landscapes. We passed orchards where the boughs were breaking down with fruit, and the lemons dropping into the rivulets that flanked the road: we entered one grove, which, in many places, was ankle deep with the fruit that lay mouldering in the path.

Having been busily employed for several hours, we were compelled to leave this place without thoroughly exploring its beauties. The hour we had to spare was dedicated to the palace of the PRINCE REGENT, latterly the country residence of JUNOT, and the house where the *Convention* of Cintra was signed. The building is modern, and one of the best constructed in Portugal. From the front you look through groves upon the rocks, and the sight is rather contracted; but the back part brings you to a sudden descent, and stands so high above every thing in that direction, as to afford one of the most extensive prospects in the country: the sea appears to the left, and the convent of Maffra far in the back ground to the right.

Finding that we had been tempted to trespass on our time, we hastened to the inn; ordered the vehicles and mules; and reluctantly returned to our floating dungeons.

25th.—The horses having become sickly

from being so long stowed on shipboard, we were ordered to disembark, and take up our former quarters; till further instructions were sent to the Commander in Chief; and on the 28th the regiment was all landed.

February 28th.—Orders were issued for the army to hold itself in readiness to march;—the heavy baggage to be sent on board the store-ships;—and every preparation to be made for advancing towards the frontiers.

March 3d.—Two squadrons of dragoons were ordered to march on the advance; but in the evening a countermand arrived.

4th.—The order of the 3d was renewed;—and on the 5th, the first and fourth squadrons proceeded to Loaires.

The two squadrons of the regiment being divided into four, each troop branched off in a different direction, leaving Loaires for the second and third squadrons, which

marched in on the 6th, and formed the head-quarter division. I went to Bucellas, about a league and a half in front. This was the advanced post, occupied by about eighty dragoons and a half-brigade of German artillery. On our entering this village, we found that the Serjeant who had been sent on for billets had never arrived; and in consequence a regular scrabble took place. To complete our difficulties, not a soul in the place could speak any language but his own, in which we were altogether deficient. However, by making signs, with the assistance of a little main force, we put up the men and horses. We had then to look out for ourselves, and got into some empty houses without windows; and having had no breakfast, commenced an attack on the produce of the village, which consisted only of musty eggs, ill-cured bacon, and bad cheese. These we washed down with some liquor called wine, which *as vinegar* was certainly good. However, when the natives found that we most unfashionably paid for things, they produced some real Bucellas, which, as a

summer wine, was excellent. We drank it at two vintins (about three-pence) per quart.

Having noted our arrival, I must revert to our two days' march.

On entering Loaires, we were well received, and tolerably provided for. The above place stands in a flat, and is considered unhealthy: its appearance and situation, however, are pretty; and its soil produces the finest oranges. Being within two leagues of Lisbon, it is (unlike most of the Portuguese villages) supplied with the necessaries of life, and contains several shops, with a good *casa de comer* (or eating-house) — which, by the way, was not discovered, till we had made every preparation for cooking our own dinners.

On leaving Loaires half a league, we came to a neat village, called St. Antonio de Tojal, where a great part of the houses surround a large green. This leads to the

convent and gardens, for which this place is celebrated.

On departing from Tojal, you ascend from the valley, and leave a village to the right, passing between two immense chains of hills. Within a mile of Bucellas, the one on the left bears away for Cabeça de Monta Chique; and the other continues farther, and takes nearly an opposite direction; both commanding the low countries, and forming a very strong position. The hills on the right are divided from the pass by a deep ravine, which in the rainy season is so increased, that the water is forced in torrents against its rugged sides, and forms a sort of cascade for several miles.

7th.—A party of us went out with guns, accompanied by a priest, who, as far as we could understand him, promised to shew us plenty of game. We saw nothing all day but one hare *, and returned quite fatigued,

* The hares of Portugal are about the size of ours: their fur is much longer, and in some parts darker: they have a great deal of white in the fore-quarters.

inviting his Reverence to dinner; who so readily agreed to attack our mutton, that I suspect he made the shooting party only with that intention.

11th.—We made a second attempt; and hired a bandy-legged fellow, who was considered the Nimrod of the place, and kept two hounds. These animals were broken-in to draw on birds; and though they never came to a dead point, they gave the shooter plenty of time to get up. We, however, had our usual bad sport. Though we found about twelve brace of partridges, the weather was so stormy, they were the whole day on the run, and, in spite of every manœuvre, we could not even get a snap-shot.—Our *chasse* ended in the destruction of a Portuguese owl, which flew from under a heap of stones. This bird was scarcely bigger than a fieldfare: its eyes were immensely large, and of a fine bright yellow: in plumage it nearly resembled our common brown owl. It ran nearly as fast as a partridge, and flew like a woodpecker.

In the evening we went out with casting nets, but all the stream appeared to contain was a few small fish, like bleak.

April 3d.—The out-posts being relieved, our division marched into Loaires.

6th.—The army received orders to commence its march towards Oporto; which was then occupied by the enemy's troops under Marshal SOULT.

7th.—Rode over to Lisbon, to equip myself for campaigning. Hurried as I was, I had resolved not to take my leave of this place without having seen its greatest curiosity. I allude to the inner chapel of St. Roque's church, of which I regretted not having time to make a regular inspection. The richness of it is a true emblem of Roman Catholic pomp. The pillars, from top to bottom of the chapel, are of lapis lazuli and amethyst, set, apparently, in fine gold. One of the altars is composed of amethyst, alabaster, and coral, combined with the most valuable minerals that an unlimited

expence through the world could procure. There is another, worked in a mass of silver, and carved to represent angels, &c. which the guide informed me cost seven thousand pounds. The candlesticks belonging to it are said to be of double that value.—This temple, instead of common stone, is paved with the choicest *mosaic*; and three large Scripture pieces, which struck me as most valuable and masterly paintings, on my having a ladder brought, and inspecting them, proved to be entirely composed of the mosaic work.

It may perhaps be unnecessary to add, that Mr. JUNOT had had these pack'd up, for the *grand receptacle of all plunder*. His interception here must have occasioned extreme disappointment, as the *collections* for this church are said to have cost three millions of crusades.

9th. — The regiment commenced its march, and the head-quarter division advanced to Sobral. When the troops entered this place, the confusion exceeded every

thing we had before experienced. The town, which was scarcely large enough to put up half a regiment, was crammed with six thousand infantry, in addition to the staff, and our own two squadrons. The cavalry officers were left adrift, to lie down how they could.—A large party of us walked into a house, where we immediately began *foraging*; and at last made up so comfortable a picnic, that we invited three friends to dinner. We had scarcely sat down, when we were invaded by one hundred and fifty soldiers, who were quartered on the same house. They were all packed into one room over our heads, and we were in momentary expectation of having them through the ceiling. We were, however, soon relieved from our post of danger, by *getting turned out of the billet*. Every one then walked off, with his victuals in one hand and saddle-bags in the other, in search of a floor where he could lie down in peace. I separated from my companions, and got into the hovel of a poor man; the whole of whose mansion consisted of two bad rooms, a little kitchen, and a pig-stye, joined together

sunder so thin a roof that day-light appeared through in several places.

The troops were directed to remain in Sibral till further orders, and with a fair prospect of *short commons*, as very soon after their first arrival not a bit of bread was to be bought.

11th.—A detachment of our regiment was ordered out to a hamlet called Xam, to make room for the artillery. I had the fortune to be one of those emancipated from dread-quarters, and proceeded to this place. It was so small it could only contain the third of a troop; and we were obliged to have the greater part of the men scattered over the country, in straggling huts.

Xam is situated in a green valley. Contiguous to it stands a quinta*, which, of course, we selected for ourselves and my midons. The man left in charge of the house, thinking his master's absence a good excuse to refuse us admission, would not

* Gentleman's country seat.

give up the keys, till we had recourse to the never-failing remedy of beginning to storm his doors. He then very politely produced them; and gave us up five rooms and a kitchen, with a good stable; and conducted us to a large garden of fruit and vegetables. Our only difficulty then was, to get at the crockery; as we had scarcely any thing to use, and our *deputy host*, with the usual embraces and palavre of a Portuguese, declared he had produced the whole contents of the house: but, meeting with a large cupboard, and slipping back the bolt with a sabre, we discovered two services of china, with plenty of glass and every thing requisite, besides sugar, honey, and other articles of provision.

12th.—When sitting comfortably down to breakfast, we observed we were *too well off* to remain long in these quarters—though indeed, at the time, we thought the army would not advance for ten days. In a few minutes after, a route came for us to march at one o'clock in the afternoon. We

accordingly took leave of our comforts, and went off to Arneiro.

13th.—Marched to Cadaval and Vermilha, passing Villa Verda. The road here, being among broken rocks, is in many places scarcely passable. In descending the heights, the views are beautiful; and on getting into the valley, the appearance of the rear troops had a pretty effect, from the serpentine direction of the passes they were coming down. On our left was Vianiera and Torres Vedras; and to our right stood a stupendous mountain, which we had seen for three days.

14th.—The army proceeded on the advance. The country in this day's march was dreary and barren, and the views, though very extensive, not so picturesque. We were struck with the majestic appearance of the buildings, against which we could plainly discern the bursting of a tremendous surge.—The town of Obidos, with its ancient Moorish fortifications, had a fine

effect from the hills by which we entered it. The church stood so near the road, we had just time to dismount and run in : it is of a hexagonal form, and, though not to be named after St. Roque's, contained many ornaments of considerable value.

After descending from the strong position of Obidos to a vale, and advancing half a league, we reached Caldos; where the army halted, and awaited the arrival of the Commander in Chief.—Caldos is a very large town, and was certainly the cleanest and neatest of any we had then seen in Portugal. In this place there is a house with several warm baths, which, I was informed, are similar to those at Harrowgate. Here is also a temporary amphitheatre, of many years' standing, which the natives told me was still used for bull-fights.

16th.—Marched for Alcobaça; to which, with the exception of a few rough passes on the sides of hills, we found the road very good, being sandy, broad, and well calculated for the march of cavalry. The sce-

very around us afforded a pleasing variety. On our arrival in Alcobaça, the inhabitants were drawn up on each side of the street, where men, women, and children, were shouting with exclamations of joy, and crying "*viva, viva!*" accompanied by the ringing of bells, waving of handkerchiefs, and every other mark of exultation.

After getting billeted off, we hastened to the convent of Santo Bernardo, which is the largest in Portugal, and the sepulchre of many kings. The apartments here are very extensive; but, instead of fine pictures, of which they are worthy, they are hung round with daubs that would do little credit to a sign-painter.

The Chapel, though perhaps not intrinsically so valuable as St. Roque's, is apparently far more splendid. This edifice is formed like a cross, and the whole of its inside embellished with the finest carving, which, being entirely covered with gilding, has a most magnificent appearance. There are two organs, opposite each other, which are

decorated with sculpture, and richly gilded; and have pipes made like trumpets, projecting horizontally, so as to throw out the sound and produce a very powerful tone. Among the monuments, there are two of particularly fine workmanship, and each of them is supported by six lions couchant carved in stone.

The Library next attracted our notice. It is sixty paces in length, and fourteen in breadth. The ornaments here display exquisite taste; and, though not so rich as the chapel, this apartment has so light and neat an effect, that we gave it a decided preference. It is paved with a variety of marble; and, before a selection of the most valuable volumes was sent on ship-board, was entirely filled with books.

The next thing to be seen was the Kitchen, which is immensely large, and has a canal running through it. The water is forced by a wheel with great rapidity, for the purpose of more hastily washing the cooking utensils. A grand dinner is dress-

ed here daily for the friars, to which all generals, and staff and field officers, had a regular invitation during their stay; and, indeed, any officer who chose to go was hospitably received.

Having surveyed the convent, we repaired to our billet. We were here extremely fortunate in our host, who received us with the greatest hospitality, and, as well as he could express himself, begged that during our residence in his house we would consider every thing it afforded as our own. He insisted on our coming to every meal at his table, and gave orders for all our servants to be well entertained in the kitchen. Our Don's style of living was sumptuous: we commenced with an elegant dinner, and (*what is not always the case*) continued to partake of one *equally good every day*.—Although our host was unable to converse with us, he contrived to keep us constantly amused; particularly those fond of music: he played the piano and guitar, and had great taste in singing. In order to promote a conference, the apothecary of

Alcobaça, who spoke French; was invited to spend the afternoon, and requested to act as interpreter. This was one of the drollest fellows we had met with: he kept us in a roar of laughter all dinner-time. Indeed, his very look was enough to promote mirth: — he had a constant smile on his face, which was embellished with a nose and chin nearly meeting, though between them he could just conveniently pass a walnut. The cut of his coat, and general appearance, was completed by a tremendous periwig; the summit of which was capped, *à la pictoresque*, with a triangular cocked hat. — Our landlord seemed so delighted at seeing the party thus entertained, that he gave him an invitation to meet us *every day at dinner*, which the doctor most readily accepted.

17th, 18th, and 19th. — Our good host gave routs, inviting all his neighbours to meet us. After tea and coffee, we had music, vocal and instrumental; with cards; followed by a pleasant dance; and con-

cluding with a hot supper, where our friend the doctor was in great force.

20th.—Walked round the estate of our landlord, and took some luncheon with a friar, at his house in the wood. With other things, he gave us some delicious wine: it had the spirit of Champaign, with the flavour of Burgundy; and we thought it superior to either.

It appeared, however, that all our luxuries were destined to be of short duration: on our return to Aleobaça, we found that orders had been issued to advance the following morning.

21st.—We accordingly bid farewell to our patron, and proceeded to Batalha. This place also contains a large society of holy fathers, who, like their brethren in general, take especial care to keep up good living.—The convent here is, as I heard, so well worth seeing, that to name Batalha without making mention of it, would be quite enough

to condemn a journal? I have therefore to plead for a sad deficiency; but being detained at Alcobaça, I did not arrive with the troops till so late, that ~~seeing~~¹⁶² my thing was totally out of the question; and at break of day on the

22d.—We marched off for Lyretá. We had good roads: they were wide; and like those of a turnpike. The town of Lyretá is very large; though the streets are narrow and bad. Its greatest ornament is the ruin of a Moorish castle, constructed on a height, close to the walls, and commanding the country for several miles in every direction! The beauty of this ruin is completed by being surrounded with orange-groves, having the hill where it stands covered with shrubs, and its walls clothed with ivy. The Castle has several partitions yet standing: among these we could plainly distinguish the remains of six separate prisons. We then took a peep at the church, which, like all others in the country, is covered with gilding and profusely ornamented. It has two organs and fine altars.

23d.—Advanced to Pombal; where we were poorly provided for and greatly crowded. This town has also contiguous to it a fine old Moorish castle. It likewise contains a square, where there is a large market for corn, poultry, and vegetables.—The country around is supplied with small rivers; and, as you advance towards Oporto, becomes more wooded. The roads, instead of bad and broken pavement, as in the greater part of Portugal, are left like an English post-road; and are thus far more pleasant to travel upon, and not subject to be rendered nearly impassable for want of repairs, which is frequently the case in other parts of the country.

24th.—The dragoons were sent out to the neighbouring villages to make room for other troops. Our squadron took up a little hamlet called Redinha, which appeared to be the grand *depôt* for every description of vagrants and vermin.—On entering my billet (which, by the way, *had a floor and a roof*), I was mobbed by a ragged set of people, who came a great deal too near to be *plea-*

sant; and on my sitting down to write, those who were my fellow-lodgers stood round me, staring like savages.

The houses here, like all others in the country of inferior quality, have nothing but square holes, without glass, by way of windows: so that you have your choice of being exposed to the wind and rain, or sitting in total darkness by closing the shutters. *My birth* was on the floor of a room where there were three doors that could not be kept shut, and broken boards to the *light-holes*. These, with a plentiful supply of chinks in the walls, rendered it as airy as being in an open field. Generally speaking, to make a remark respecting the vermin (from which scarcely a bed, from the best to the worst of houses throughout the country, is free) would be like the barber at Lisbon *informing Baretti* that “grapes grew in Portugal;” but *here* the fleas and bugs abounded to a degree worthy of memorandum. They kept me constantly employed nearly all night; and on the welcomed approach of daylight to the crevices,

I sprung out of bed:—but making any ~~head~~
~~head~~ was of no avail:—the bugs were
crawling about, and the fleas swarming like
ants. I therefore shuffled on my clothes,
and hustled to the river; where, on un-
dressing, I found my clothes covered with
fleas, and my skin spotted from head to
foot. After plunging into a deep hole, and
swimming round till I thought my escape
from vermin tolerably complete, I put on
fresh apparel, and sallied forth in search of
a new billet. After beating up the quar-
ters of several Sephors, I removed my esta-
blishment to the house of a sulky old fel-
low, whose looks one would think, must
have kept the vermin at bay, as in his case
there was not even a house to be found.

This day (the 25th) we received orders
to be in readiness to turn out for a march
at the sound of the bugle. After remaining
so long prepared that we were fearful some
orders might have been accidentally with-
held, the squadron marched on the Coim-
bra road, to where it led to our other
quarters, and there waited for several hours,

to see if the troops were coming that way.

— During our halt here, each man was regaled with a tumbler of good wine, brought out by the peasants, which, with many *vivas*, they presented as a testimony of their love for the English; but when, finding the advance was countermanded, we went *threes about*, they put on most woful countenances, and all appeared panic-struck. Our return to Redinha created the greatest alarm among the natives, who fancied we had been driven back by the enemy; and we being unable to explain the circumstance, kept them in a state of miserable suspense, until a Senhor Olivera, who spoke English and came to us at dinner, satisfied them with an explanation.

26th.—Instructions were issued, that, in consequence of the arrival of Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY, the army would remain stationary till further orders.

27th.—Went out on a Portuguese sporting party—that is, with about a dozen shooters; attended by all the rabble of the

village, who are armed with sticks and poles; and followed by an immense pack of dogs, consisting of every description of mongrel that can be hallooed together. This procession is closed by a senhor rat-catcher, who, with his bag of ferrets, brings up the rear; and this *they* call hunting! I was provided with one of their best guns, which, from appearance, one would hardly know whether to prefer firing it off, or being shot at with it. Finding no other game, I mustered courage to try a shot at a few small birds, and found it killed tolerably well.— Our *chasse* ended, as shooting *parties* usually do,— in bringing home nothing, and a *set-to* at eating and drinking. We had, however, no great chance of sport; as all we saw were some birds, very wild; and a rabbit, bolted by a ferret in cover.

28th.—Went to a Portuguese funeral. The corpse was laid on the back, with hands crossed, and tied together; the face quite exposed: and the body, covered with nothing but a shroud, was carried on an open bier with a sort of tester; and thrown

into a hole, like a dead dog. Instead of any solemnity at the moment of interment, the fellows around were in argumentative conversation : and one of them jumped into the grave, which was but just deep enough to bury the deceased, covered the face with a cloth, and began filling up the hole with the sculls and bones which were torn up and thrown around in digging it.

By the good management of one of our officers (who is perhaps the best forager, the choicest caterer, and the first amateur cook in his Majesty's service), we had contrived to establish an excellent mess ; at which we generally *went through the operation* of entertaining some of the Senhors. On the 29th we invited about two people to each plate, and sat down to a dinner worthy of an English host. Having just sent away the remains of the *second course*, we were in the very act of filling a bumper to "Sir Arthur Wellesley," when an express arrived for us to advance immediately. The *Rouse* sounded ; and in ten minutes we were all packed up and turned out. We marched to Condexa,

where we did not arrive till night. This town was brilliantly illuminated, and, the night being very dark, it appeared to advantage.—Here the left wing of the regiment halted, and we proceeded to Sarmoche.

30th.—Marched to Coimbra.—The approach of this town is one of the finest prospects in Portugal. The view of the city and the mountainous distances around, with the river Mondago winding through the richest country, is presented from an opposite height. The road then descends in a serpentine direction, leading through an olive-grove to a fine stone bridge, by which you pass into the streets of Coimbra. The buildings cover a mountain, from its very summit down to the water's edge; and the Quintas, among the surrounding groves, extend for several miles.—This is, I believe, the largest town in Portugal, next to Lisbon and Oporto. It much resembles the former in every respect, and is equally deceiving to the traveller; who from distant appearance is led to expect a paradise, and on his

entrance is disappointed with poor, narrow streets, every where poisoned with stink and dirt.

Our arrival was announced by a ringing of bells, which brought out crowds of the inhabitants, who lined the road, bridge, and town, to receive us with *vivas* and *huzzas*; and the troops, while passing, were covered with flowers from all the windows of the *Senhoras*. At night we had a grand illumination.

Coimbra is celebrated for containing the great university of the kingdom. Here are eighteen colleges, with an extensive library; also a large convent and museum. The greater part of these are connected in a fine range of buildings, which stand on a terrace above the houses, and overlook the whole country.

May 2d.—The greater part of the army were up, and the Commander in Chief arrived.

The illuminations were continued every night during our stay, and with every inducement to tempt us out; as the streets were graced with a charming supply of *Bonitas Senhoras*, who professed “*gostar muito os officiales Ingeleses bonitos.*” We were, indeed, *so cordially received and delightfully entertained*, that it can *hardly* be called vanity to say we believed them *in earnest*.

4th.—Our regiment received orders to march out, and occupy some neighbouring villages, leaving their quarters for the 16th dragoons; and one of our squadrons was attached (with General TILSON’s brigade) to the Portuguese army.

5th.—Our division of three troops went to Brefernis; the remainder (three others) to adjacent hamlets. The roads to this place were in most parts cut through solid rocks of stone, with scarcely a crack or jointure; and their surface was ground by the carts into so many ridges, that in several parts we found it difficult to keep our horses on their legs.

Brefernis is a long league and a half from Coimbra ; and, for a description of it, I couple it with Redinha, which, by the way, is far the better of the two. We took possession of the most habitable sty it afforded ; and, wishing to have a reprieve from vermin as long as we could, we took our dinner under the shade of a large tree in an orange-grove, from which we had our dessert in perfection ; and, I may add, with variety, as the very same tree bore two sorts of lemons, with oranges both China and Seville*.

In the evening we were directed to parade, in marching order, on the following morning at four, and proceed to the sands near Coimbra, where, at six o'clock, the Army was to be reviewed by the Commander in Chief.

6th.—The regiments having formed a line (reaching above two miles), wheeled into column, marched past, and filed to their quarters.

* Perhaps if I do not explain that the tree was grafted, this may appear a bold attempt at *Baron Munchausen*.

7th.—At five in the morning, with no further apprised than the *Rouse*, we turned out; and, after forming with the remainder of our brigade, proceeded forward about three leagues. The head-quarters of our regiment were at Avelants.

On the 8th we received orders to prepare for a march at five in the morning; but had to halt during that day, to afford time for Marshal BERESFORD, with his army, to reach the Upper Douro.

On the 9th we proceeded* towards the Vouga; and after having crossed the river, encamped— as was supposed, at the distance of two leagues from the advanced posts of the enemy. On discovering this, our object was, if possible, to take them by surprise; accordingly, rigid orders were issued, that during the day no man should

* In describing specifically the various movements and actions which led to the expulsion of the enemy from Oporto, particular attention would be required as to the nature of the ground, upon which horse could be more disadvantageous to the operations of cavalry.

mount a bank which touched the flank of the column, for fear of being visible to the enemy ; and by night the strictest silence was preserved throughout our lines.

We marched at one on the morning of the 10th ; and such extreme caution was observed in whispering the words of command, that our advanced troops moved on without being heard by those in the rear, who (being in such rocky passes, the brigades were only able to march in single file) had to form their junction under some difficulties. These were increased by the utter darkness of the night. Nor was it without danger, as well as impediments, that we got forward over these rough roads, so as, by the aid of a guide, to ascertain our point. We had then arrived in a champaign country, where our brigades advanced, on an open road, in columns of half-squadrons. At five we came in sight of the enemy's videttes, formed in line ; and were joined by a strong squadron of Portuguese cavalry. This rencontre occasioned as much surprise to the enemy, as we (by the

by e) had felt on the preceding day, at hearing the French were in possession of Albergaria Nova, for which place an officer had been sent forward to procure billets for our troops.

On our skirmishers being thrown off, a kind of signal was made by the French commander to the Brigadier General who headed our party. This caused him to advance; as perhaps he judged this signal to be of a pacific nature: but he was effectually undeceived, by having three shots fired at him; when a general skirmish commenced. We soon formed to attack them in line; but finding ourselves opposed to a strong column of cavalry, we retired to a short distance. Being then reinforced with two three-pounders from General Stuart's brigade, which immediately opened their fire with some execution; and animated by the appearance of our infantry; we again advanced. A partial charge was made by the 16th, so as to occasion a loss to the enemy of seven men killed and a great many wounded. Of this regiment

but few were wounded, and only one was taken prisoner.—We at length succeeded in driving the enemy out of the field*. Their retreat was to Olivera, which they soon abandoned, so as almost immediately to leave it in our possession.

The number of French cavalry here amounted to four thousand: they were supported by small detachments of infantry.—I must observe the beautiful effect of our engagement. It commenced about sun-rise, in one of the finest mornings possible, on an immense tract of heath, with a pine-wood in rear of the enemy. So little

* They were then followed by two regiments of Portuguese infantry, who drove them, in a very gallant manner, through a pine-wood, which surrounded the further end of the ground. After this they had to pass a deep and difficult ravine, which, being obliged to file, they were so long in getting through, that our artillery were there in time to play on their rear-guard, while they were scrambling up the opposite side. Their *finest Hussars* came in for this: they however escaped tolerably well; they had a few killed, and their wounded were considerable; but they are so dexterous in taking them off (and behind, on their horses, if dismounted) that we are apt in general to under-calculate their number.

was the slaughter, and regular the formations, that it appeared more like a sham-fight on Wimbledon Common than an action in a foreign country.

The conduct of the Portuguese rabble was a disgrace to such a scene: they not only stripped the dead and wounded, but gave their *coup de grace* to every poor wretch who had a vital struggle remaining. The scull of one French officer in particular they broke to pieces, scattering the brains on every side. Vagabonds of this cast are observed to hover near the army during every battle.

The troops being much fatigued, and from other circumstances, halted the remainder of this day.

We were picquetté all night near Olivera; where we were at first rather in tribulation, as the bâtmens whom we had trusted with the prog had taken good care to keep out of the way. We, who were already exhausted with fagging, had to cut

boughs for our huts ; our fire-wood to collect, and light ; and what little we could pick up, to cook for dinner. I happened to have a leveret, that in the grand scuffle had taken refuge with a poaching farrier, who popped her into his apron. My messmates then mustering a little broken bread, and adding the ribs of a *dead sheep*, we *made out so well* that we invited two friends to dine. After this we lay under our fir-boughs, and passed a very good night.

11th.—At eight in the morning we began our march ; and, after advancing about two leagues, came up with the infantry, whom we found sharply engaged, driving the enemy out of a wood. A squadron of the 16th, and another of the 20th, made a charge, with the loss of several men ; the road on which they acted being covered with large stones, and flanked by a wood and broad ditches. We then advanced along the main road to Oporto, which was strewed with dead men and horses, and spoils of every description. Among other objects of horror, we observed the bodies of

six Portuguese hanging, besides one which had dropped down, in a state of putridity. Three of the above were suspended from a single tree. We heard that these executions took place in consequence of the murder of SOULT's Aid-de-camp; and that four of the sufferers were priests, who had refused to deliver up the real or supposed criminals.

Our pursuit of the enemy was continued for about a mile beyond Cavallos; when we were compelled to desist, in consequence of the horses being unable to bring forward the guns*. Near the above place the army were *bivouacqued*, with the exception of our right squadron, which remained out on *picquet*, attached to General MURRAY's brigade. We passed the night without cover; and the dews were falling so heavy as to soak our clothes and be wrung from our night-caps.

* At this I am not surprised, being informed, by an Officer of Artillery, that, out of three hundred horses sent for their service from Portsmouth, there arrived at Lisbon *only* eighty that could be called effective.

12th.—At day-break, General MURRAY ordered out the picquet; and, moving on, with a subaltern and a few men, for the purpose of reconnoitring, left the remainder about a mile in advance from where we had been posted. We soon heard that the French who had engaged us were beyond the Douro, having blown up the bridge, and taken refuge in Oporto.. This account being confirmed by the officer of the advanced party, orders were given that the picquet should be taken back, and wait for further instructions.

In a few hours we were informed that Sir ARTHUR intended passing the river that day; and our Major came forward to take command of the right squadron. General PAGET being in our front, with a strong division of Infantry and Artillery, we crossed the Douro about twelve o'clock, accompanied by General MURRAY's brigade, consisting of the whole Hanoverian Legion. Our passage of the river was effected about a league above Oporto: and the other brigades (in line with us to our left) crossed the

river at the same time. On landing, we took our position on a height, where we had an uninterrupted view of the town, and of the direct attack made by General PAGET's division, which by this time had nearly driven the enemy from the suburbs. The remainder of the engagement consisted chiefly in skirmishing among stone walls and broken rocks, with which the country is much intersected.—We could see for several miles in every direction, and distinctly observe the whole of the enemy's cavalry retreating. Orders were then given to make an attempt to cut off some of the rear troops; but these orders were recalled before the squadron had proceeded a quarter of a mile, as the General soon perceived that the enemy's covering party was too strong for us.

After rejoining the German Legion battalions on the height, we descended to the valley, making a flank movement for some distance parallel to the Douro, with a view of advancing as a reserve in the rear of those engaged.—While General MURRAY was making a momentary reconnoitre, a Staff-

Officer came up, with the information that one of our regiments was very hard pressed, and that the Cavalry must advance immediately for its support. On this, we hastened forward as fast as was possible from the nature of the ground; and, after surmounting many impediments among the stone walls, got into the main road, on reaching the outskirts of the town. — Our infantry here extended along the road. We then, forming up in threes, passed all our lines at a full gallop; whilst they greeted us with one continued huzza. After this, going almost at speed, enveloped in a cloud of dust, for nearly two miles, we cleared *our* infantry, and that of the *French* appeared. A strong body was drawn up in close column, with bayonets ready to receive us in front. On each flank of the road was a stone wall, bordered outwardly by trees; with other walls, projecting in various directions; so as to give every advantage to the operations of infantry, and to screen those by whom we were annoyed. On our left, in particular, numbers were posted in a line, with their pieces rested on the wall which flanked the

road, ready to give us a running fire as we passed. This could not but be effectual, as our left men by threes were nearly close to the muzzles of the muskets, and barely out of the reach of a *coup de sabre*. In a few seconds, the ground was covered with men and horses : notwithstanding these obstacles, we penetrated the battalion opposed to us ; the men of which, relying on their bayonets, did not give way till we were nearly close upon it, when they fled in great confusion. For some time this contest was kept up, hand to hand ; and, for the time it lasted, was severe.

After many efforts, we succeeded in cutting off three hundred, most of whom were secured as prisoners : but our own loss was very considerable. Our squadron consisted of scarcely *forty* file ; and the brunt of the action, of course, fell the heaviest on the troop in front : of the *fifty-two* men composing it, ten were killed, eleven severely wounded (besides others slightly), and six taken prisoners : of the *four* officers engaged, *three* were on the wounded list.

For my own part, my horse being shot under me, the moment after a ball had grazed my upper lip, I had to scramble my way on foot, amidst the killed and wounded—among whom the enemy, from the side walls, were continually firing—and thus effected my escape from this *agreeable* situation. On the approach of our infantry, the French brigade was compelled to retire. Our few remaining men, coming threes about, brought with them the prisoners in triumph.

Our commanding officer and squadron had the satisfaction of receiving thanks from the Commander in Chief. On the merits of our charge, the comment of the French General ought not to be omitted: he sent for our men (who had been his prisoners, and afterwards escaped), and declared to them, that, in his opinion, “we must have all been drunk, or mad; as the brigade we had attacked was nearly two thousand strong*.”

* On returning, we met our second squadron, about a mile to the rear, which had just passed the river, and was hastening

The town of Oporto, to which we retired*, exhibited a scene of the greatest confusion: the streets were strewed with dead horses and men, and the gutters dyed with blood.—This night the town was illuminated, in honour of our success. The effect, however, could not be very brilliant, as the late exactions of the French had left the poor inhabitants in a state to testify their joy more by good-will than deed.

We were all night, and half the next day, employed in seeking our wounded, who had been taken into different houses on the road.

So wholly unexpected was our forcing of the passage of the Douro on the 12th, that the French were totally unprepared for

to our support, though too late: our third was still on the other side the water; and our fourth being detached, we had only *one* squadron that came into the above action. Two were mentioned in the Dispatches.

* Scarcely any farther engagement took place that evening: it was then about five o'clock; and our infantry, taking the advance, remained near the position where our charge was made, being about three miles from the town.

us, and Marshal SOULT was *roused from his dinner* to put his plans of defence in execution: but of how little avail was this defence, and to how short a time protracted!— In his precipitate retreat, the enemy abandoned a large proportion of artillery, with ordnance stores, ammunition, and baggage.

It is but due, to ascribe the brilliant successes of this day, not only to the determined bravery of British troops, but also to the experienced judgment of the Commander in Chief, and the rapidity of his movements.

13th.—The army continued to advance, the infantry being in front. We remained in Oporto, to collect and make arrangements for our wounded. What with the number of men left sick by the enemy, and those taken in since the action, the hospitals were completely filled.—This day the dead were buried, and the streets cleared.—We went to see the remains of the bridge that had been destroyed: it having only consisted of a chain of boats, we

were ill repaid for the difficulty in finding our way through the intricate part of the town which led to it.—Oporto was much deserted by the inhabitants, and had a dismal appearance: some of the best mansions were left well furnished, with closets full of costly china, and almost every household utensil still remaining.

This city being too well known to require the concise description that would fall to its share in a pocket-book, I only observe, that, from its choice buildings and eminent situation, it surpassed, in my estimation, all the towns yet seen in Portugal.

14th.—Our regiment assembled at two in the afternoon, and about three marched for Villa Nova. Fifty campaigns may not produce greater miseries than we had to encounter before we reached this place. We started on a very bad road, in a wet evening; and, by the time we were soaked to the skin, it became so dark, that we could not see our way; of which the guide himself had but an imperfect knowledge, even

by day-light. After crawling on till the horses were knocked up, and the men scarcely able to keep their eyes open, we were cheered with some lights, which indicated our approach to a village. We all thanked our stars that we had *at last* found the quarters.

We had soon, however, the *consolation* to find that we had wandered to the wrong place, and were quite out of our path to Villa Nova. We had then to wait while another guide was pressed; and the hamlet we were in was so crowded with infantry, that not one of us could get under an empty shed. After sitting, benumbed with cold, for near an hour, we proceeded with our new conductor, who was a lame fellow—consequently a *very slow goer*. In a piteous tone he declared it would be *morning* before we could reach Villa Nova, and that he was himself doubtful of being able to find the road. It was so dark we were forced to be every moment hallooing to each other, to avoid being lost; and the men so repeatedly mistook the road, that we had

often to stop and sound the bugle, for half an hour at a time, before we could get them together. We were the whole night without the least shelter, in an incessant pour of rain, scrambling with our horses among the rocks, expecting every moment to be thrown down ; and, in places where the safety of our lives required dismounting, we had to wade through deep streams of water, occasioned by the torrents of rain which flooded the passes. We were latterly every now and then dropping asleep on our horses, quite exhausted, and shivering the whole time with cold. After suffering every hardship that could attend upon a mere march, we reached Villa Nova ; where we had to remain an hour in the streets ; the rain still continuing.—At last, some sheds were provided, and we filed off. It was then past six o'clock, which extended the duration of our drenching to sixteen hours. Our servants were lost ; so that we had neither meat, drink, nor clothing. I got into a stable, where, on some dirty straw, I slept, in my wet clothes, till two o'clock in the afternoon.

15th.—The chief part of the army, which had been here, went forward; we were unable to proceed that day.

16th.—Advanced to Braga. We halted to receive forage and rations, and then proceeded to Gregio Novo. The weather was wet, the troops miserably accommodated, and the officers were all bundled into a hovel like a drove of pigs. The infantry were kept on the advance, — No engagement of any consequence had taken place; and the French continued their retreat.

Previously to our reaching Gregio Novo, the advanced posts sent in about fifty prisoners, who were all *kennelled* in a church; in the middle of which they had made a comfortable fire with the *gilded* wood that had decorated the altars.

17th.—Marched to Salamundé, where we passed the army, and went in advance, accompanied by the Guards, who had the preceding evening been skirmishing with

some success; for the enemy, finding themselves hard pressed, were constantly throwing away their knapsacks, which they had so loaded with plunder as to be unable to march with them. Every one, therefore, who could lay hands on a Frenchman or his kit, had a fine prize. These marauders had robbed the churches of pieces of gold and silver, which, when we entered Salamundé, we were told our soldiers had taken and melted down. A number of silver forks, spoons, &c., were sold here by regular auction. Some of the most valuable stones were bought at a tenth part of what they were worth; and the men would rather receive the most trifling sums for their prizes, than be at the trouble of carrying them.

The village of Salamundé was a perfect scene of devastation; and on every road around the French had set fire to the cottages of the peasants: several of these were in flames as we passed. Dead men, horses, cattle, and every thing that could forcibly depict ruin, were here again strewed for leagues

along the road. They had a number of horses and mules, which they deemed it expedient to leave; and in order to render them totally unserviceable, cut the sinews of their hind legs, and left a field full of these hamstring animals *.

As we were this day not up with the enemy, no affairs of out-posts took place. The Guards kept in front, and our regiment occupied two straggling hamlets to the right. On taking up our quarters (which, like the other houses in this part of the country, were little cabins of loose stones), we found that the few wretched inhabitants who had been left, taking us for their former visitors, had precipitately fled to the mountains. In the billet I occupied, they had very kindly left me a large fire, with a pot of soup boiling on it.—It had rained day and night, incessantly, till this evening: the clouds then began to break, and gave us a grand view of the setting sun behind the mountains.

* This barbarous custom is frequently resorted to by a retreating army, when ammunition cannot be spared to shoot them.

18th.—Marched to Monta Legre, a small town on the frontiers, to the left of Chaves, which was our last advance. The pursuit of the enemy was relinquished by reason of Marshal BERESFORD's army being unable, through extreme fatigue, to proceed farther than Chaves; and consequently not being forward enough to cut off their retreat, as was intended.

The French, however, found themselves so hard pressed, they were forced to abandon nearly all their artillery, and, in short, every incumbrance, to facilitate their escape. This forced march rendered their loss, both in men and horses, very considerable: but *Mr. Soult* had taken good care to secure *his plunder*, by sending the train of carts that were loaded with it, well to the rear; and having them always dispatched a day or two before his troops.

Monta Legre had been so despoiled, that the natives were nearly famished, and we had to trust entirely to the arrival of our own short stock of provisions. Nothing

could be found here in the way either of meat, drink, or vegetables; save a few starved goats, bad water, and dead cabbage-stalks.

19th.—The whole army halted.

Being on the borders of Spain, I was desirous of seeing this country, and set out for that purpose; but had to pay *handsomely* for indulging my curiosity.—

After passing a country strewed with French, who had been left to die by sickness and famine, I reached the village of Padreira; which had been stripped of every thing, left in flames, and its inhabitants (nearly naked) in a state of starvation.—Having mounted the hills, a fog came on, and I was lost. Here, without either sword, pistol, or stick, several Portuguese met me, who, I am convinced, suspected me to be a Frenchman: and a constant example was before my eyes of what would be my fate, had they decided on

this mistake ; for, in every direction, lay the corpses of stragglers and helpless men whom they had murdered.

Though the fog was *mended* by a heavy rain, I was determined to proceed ; being told I was within half a league of Spain. The passes were among low woods on the declivity of mountains ; and so bad, that even at a foot-pace they were nearly impassable. The Senhor's *half league* proved about *sir English miles* ; and just as I reached the borders of Galicia, my horse was taken with the staggers, and for a long time unable to move. It was then growing dusk, the rain pouring, and I ten miles from my quarters. My mind was decided that neither the old horse nor his master would see *England* again : and indeed the chance was greatly against us ; but, most fortunately, General SYLVEIRA's Portuguese army came by in about half an hour after, and, to crown all, was bound for Monta Legre. With these troops I marched, half way up to my knees in mud, lead-

ing, or rather hauling along, my Rosinante; which there was so much difficulty in doing, that the column was all the time gaining ground of me. Several times I expected to be left behind, lost, and (what would of course follow to a *stranger* here at night) put to death; and repeatedly observed the blood-thirsty looks of the savages composing this army, who, so far as I could understand, were holding forth on their suspicions of me. I heard one of them say, "I believe that fellow to be no friend of ours."—It soon became quite dark; and, after having gone about seven miles, my horse dropped dead. I then took my appointments on my back, and could keep up with the best of them; and about eleven at night we reached our destination.

20th.—Our regiment returned to Salamundé by a different route from that by which we had advanced. The road here winds round the great mountains, adhering to immense precipices; and is in many places so narrow, as barely to admit a mule with baggage. You are nearly the whole

day in a chain of mountains, among woods, rocks, and water-falls : the distances that catch the eye between the heights, opposed to this varied fore-ground, present a charming landscape. Every thing has the most wild and romantic appearance ; and, amidst the awful roar of surrounding cascades, you may conceive yourself deserted by every earthly creature.

The passes, as every where else, were strewed with dead men ; the majority of whom were in the most offensive state of putridity. The French had so many horses precipitated down the heights, that we concluded they must have passed them in the dark. We saw several lying at the bottom, apparently quite mangled by the fall.

22d.—Marched to Botica, where we dined and slept in the gallery of a little chapel, left, like every thing else where the *French* had been, in a state of ruin.

23d.—Proceeded to Braga ; leaving, on our left, a castle and other buildings cu-

riously constructed on an immense solid rock. We passed also a valley which contained a great number of huge stones, several of which were forty yards in girth.— We were to halt at Braga till further orders.

Braga, the capital of Entre Minho e Douro, contains many good houses, with broad and commodious streets. This town is well supplied with most of the articles which the country affords. Here are a number of good shops, an excellent market, and mechanics for almost every kind of work.

On the 28th we went to the mass at the Cathedral. In this church there is a gallery, called the Bishop's Chapel, with some of the best carving we had seen. Here are three organs; one in the English style, about the middle of the aisle; and two others, with horizontal pipes, which stand on each side the gallery; to one of these there is a curious figure, which marks time for the music by means of a spring to its

hand. The decorations of this church are so nearly in the style of those in the church of Alcobaça, that it would be needless here to give any description; and as for valubles —— the *French* had been there!

31st.—Marched to Villa Nova.

June 1st.—Re-entered Oporto, where we halted till the 3d. The regiment then left this town, and passed the Douro over a temporary bridge of boats. Here we saw the richest vineyards for several miles down the banks of the river; and the city of Oporto, being built on the declivity of a mountain, appeared to the greatest advantage from the opposite side.—We then marched three leagues on an execrable road, and came to a village called Gregio. By continuing parallel to the sea, we had it in view nearly all day. Between the beach and the above place there is a very large convent, with extensive gardens, and several fine fountains.

From Gregio there is nothing for a

journal, unless I state that seven of us had to inhabit a hovel that would scarcely hold a pair of bullocks, and where, within a slight partition, there was an old woman dying.—This evening the wet weather again returned; and on the 4th, after all getting well ducked, we reached Olivera. The rain *compelling us to hold our heads constantly down*, we had a fine opportunity of inspecting the variety of *marble* which composed a part of the road leading to the above place.

5th.—We proceeded to Agueda. On my road to this place I experienced the *comforts* of being taken ill on service. My complaint proceeding from a violent cold, our regimental Æsculapians ordered me, on my arrival in quarters, to “go to bed,” to “keep quiet, and promote perspiration ! ! !” —I had a nice opportunity of following this prescription ! After shaking like a man with the ague, and waiting for half an hour, a Portuguese bed (that is, a *hard* straw bag on *hard* boards) was provided, with dirty blankets and damp sheets. My room had a thorough draught of air, and the rain kept

pouring in. The savages of the billet refused me a little fire-wood ; and had not my *satellites* made a proper use of their feet, as well as their hands, I could not have got my broth boiled.—The situation here was as well calculated for “*keeping quiet*,” as the ringing of bells, crying of children, barking of curs, and squalling of cats, would admit of. The Portuguese were all day running about the house in their wooden shoes; their *tongues*, as well as their feet, being in perpetual motion.

6th.—I was *alive*, and went through the rain to Alamera, where the troops had arrived. They halted here till the 8th, and then went to Coimbra.—On our return to this town, a great part of the regiment was sent over the bridge. The officers of our squadron were in high luck at the distribution of billets: we were quartered in the house of a Nobleman, which was left in care of his son, a Colonel in the Portuguese service. Here we received the kindest attention, and, having every comfort we could require, established a sumptuous mess; for

which we had an abundance of plate and the best services of china.

This house is very large, with an extensive suite of rooms; and has a lawn before it, with a view of the river and town. We had excellent stabling, and a field to turn out our horses.—Behind the premises there are a fine garden and orange-grove. At the farther end, among the most solitary shades, is a large fountain: hence arose the name of this Quinta,—Casâ da Lacryma (*the House of Tears*); and which is derived from the following melancholy circumstance:—

Alphonso IV. King of Portugal, having married his son to a Spanish Princess, took this seat, as a villa for the young couple. On coming here to reside they brought their bride-maid, a most beautiful young Spanish lady, to whom the Prince himself evinced a great partiality. The Princess died a few years after; and he became so enamoured of this Donna, that he made her his wife. On the King hearing of this match, and having provided another, in his opinion far

more advantageous, in the moment of his rage he sent two Spanish counsellors to murder the beloved bride of his son. The villains accomplished their horrid act one evening, when she was walking by this fountain. The distracted state of his son's mind, together with the stings of his own conscience, soon brought Alphonso to his grave; and on the Prince ascending the throne, the assassins were executed; the body of his late wife was dug up; the crown of Portugal placed on her head; and she conveyed in state to Alcobaça, where she was re-interred with every tribute of honour and affection.

13th, 14th, and 15th.—We marched to Condexa, Pombal, and Lyreia. This evening we spent agreeably, at the house of a *Don Senhor*, whose lady sent orders to the steward of her *quinta* to provide for our reception the succeeding day.

On the 16th we took up our abode there, and fared luxuriously.

The regiment occupied two small towns —Aldea de Cruz, and Orense. These places are in a wooded and rich country : the latter has a fine Moorish castle.

We had this day *turned off to the left of the great Lisbon road*, on our way to Thomar, where we arrived on the 17th; the head-quarters of the army being then established at Abrantes.

At Thomar we came up with the 1st German Hussars, who marched out soon after our arrival. The army were also reinforced by the 23d Dragoons, and a heavy brigade ;—all landed while we were up the country. The four troops of the 20th had left us, to join the remainder of that regiment in Sicily ; and our force of cavalry was then six regiments.

Thomar is a fine old Moorish town, prettily situated on the banks of the Naboon, and commanded by an immense height, on which there remains one of the finest castles in Portugal. Contiguous to this stands

a large convent, which, excepting one troop, contained our whole regiment: we had there about five hundred horses.

22d.—Walked up the river, shaded by orchards, where the trees were breaking down with fruit, and every thing around had the richest appearance. While we were in silent admiration contemplating the beauties of nature, a volley of dirt-clods was pelted at us by some Portuguese. What we had done to offend them I know not; but suppose, judging by *themselves*, they thought us *thieves*, and concluded we were planning operations to attack their orchard. Justice herself directed us to give them chase; and, after soundly thrashing those who were not *then in wind for running away*, we proceeded up the river.

Above two miles from the town we came to an artificial water-fall, which filled the whole valley with its echo. Being intercepted by a rising ground, it bursts suddenly upon the view with a majestic appearance. The stream flows over two flights

of steps, regularly built with stone, and forming an obtuse angle in the centre. The fall is near sixty feet, and extends about a hundred yards.—This immense torrent of water is carried off in a winding stream, which, by an increased rapidity when recovered from the force of the cascade, is evidently the whole way on a descent.

During our stay at Thomar, we were civilly treated, and often entertained with musical parties. At these we were sometimes *enchanted*, by a *pot-bellied fellow*, who was allowed to be the first guitar-player in the kingdom. Paltry as the powers of this instrument may appear, we thought that in his hands it produced one of the finest solos we had ever heard.

July 1st.—Received orders to proceed on the advance for Spain.

2d.—Marched off at four o'clock in the morning; and in the afternoon reached Villa de Rea, where we *bivouacqued*.—This day the mules and calèche of our command-

ing officer had an extraordinary escape. The vehicle, which was loaded with valuable baggage, china, glass, &c., was overturned, and hurled down a precipice for twenty yards. At the bottom of this is a river, from which all was saved by lodging among the rocks. Instead (as we expected) of seeing every thing dashed to pieces, and the mules killed, all we found amiss was, the breaking of the splinter bar and two bottles. By the greatest accident, there happened to be no one in the carriage ; and the driver scrambled off when he found his mules giving way.

4th.—Marched for Cortesada, where (after passing a deserted town, and a perfect amphitheatre of mountains) we arrived and picquettet.—Here we had nine horses starved to death, and many others were in a most deplorable condition.

5th.—Proceeded to Larzidas, a large village, so forsaken by its inhabitants that every house was empty but about three or four, in which there remained the families

of a few miserable peasants.—The bullocks* not coming up till late in the evening, we were, as usual, in a bad way for provision; and at this place even water was so scarce that we were forced to put a sentry over what could be discovered, and which was very bad.

6th.—Continued to advance, and picquettted near Castello Branco; where we were reinforced by our fourth squadron, which had arrived from General BERESFORD's army, then left in the north.

This day we passed, on our left, the Atrello (or *Star*) mountain, the highest in Portugal; on which we could plainly distinguish the snow, though supposed to be nine leagues from the road.

Our route specified that we were to halt at Castello Branco; but on our arrival we found that it was countermanded; and, in

* It is common, when we come to a *camp touch*, to have our half-starved bullocks up, down, and in the pot, the same day.

Our exhausted state, advanced, on the 7th, to Lodeiro.—The officers were here in little cabins; and about eleven at night, a fire broke out, which consumed a great part of them. The inhabitants of this hamlet were in such a state of apathy, they never attempted to assist, nor even save their own property, till their very houses were caught by the flames.

8th.—Marched to a wood near Lodeiro.—The country we had passed appeared to abound with a variety of birds. The eagles and vultures were constantly hovering over the rear of the troops, and several times came within fair shot. There is also a small species of land stork, one of which our men caught in a shed.

9th.—Proceeded on our march.—This being a clear day, we were presented with the grand mountains in our front, and, while so intensely hot we could scarcely breathe, we plainly saw the snow with which several of their summits were covered.—After ad-

vancing three leagues, we crossed the river Elga, which in that part divides the two kingdoms, and (leaving Salvateira, and a Moorish castle, to our right) entered SPAIN. The inhabitants of the two countries seem to have no communication with, or knowledge of each other. We surveyed the town of Zarza Mayor, which appeared very little different from those we had seen in Portugal: the Spanish, however, in their houses, seem neater and cleaner than the Portuguese. This day the regiment came up with the remainder of the brigade, and bivouacked three miles from Zarza Mayor.—In the evening we had to pitch our boughs in a forest, where we were tortured the whole night by gnats, and annoyed with every description of reptile, and by a *concert of toads and frogs*, which were by no means unlike *Portuguese women in a market*.—In the morning, my face was swelled with bites; and the blankets between which I laid would have been a treat to no one but Sir J—— B——. Nothing could well exceed the variety of

insects, with which these blankets would have furnished the *amateur*: he might have obtained the finest specimens of the beetle—the choicest old spiders—and swarms of ants, which in these warm countries are half an inch in length.

After getting up, I bathed in some water near; and, while dressing on the bank, there were around me enough of the large Spanish lizards to supply half the museums in London.—I was afterwards congratulated on neither being sucked by a leech nor bit by a water-snake, both of which are said to abound in this water.

11th.—After halting the 10th, we renewed our march at four o'clock A. M.; and in the evening got to a wood, a short half-league from Morealega.

12th.—We entered Coria; whence we were sent half a league out of our line of march, and picquettet at least a mile from any water. The wood we were in contained a variety of the most curious Spanish birds,

with which the trees were full every where round the camp.—This country, and I believe almost every other in Spain, abounds with game: some of the German Legion, who had brought their guns with them, were out only a few hours, and came home loaded with red-legged partridges.

I rode to Coria, a large town, on a vast eminence. Here is a fine church, through which I was shown by a priest. It has towers, with parapets overlooking the whole country. Its inside, as well as its ornaments, differs little or nothing from the churches in Portugal. An organ it has on so large a scale, that the bellows are blown by means of two boys running hand in hand up and down a see-saw of flat timber. The *holy father* told me, that this was the finest instrument in Spain, and that the pipes were all pure silver. For the latter I have only *his word*; but the organ spoke for itself: I never heard any thing to equal its tone; and the different stops produced a chaste and tasteful imitation of every instrument.—In the town of Coria we had

iced lemonade, frozen with the snow brought, above nine leagues, from the mountain tops.

13th.—Marched; crossed the river Alagon; and picquettet near Galisteia, a town with intricate streets, on a strong position, and fortified by a Moorish wall.

14th.—This day we passed through a country full of game:—an officer and myself, by merely flanking the regiment on the march, with one old gun between us, killed a fine bag of Spanish partridges and wild-pigeons.—About mid-day we entered Placentia, a large town on the Xera, where the army had assembled. We had excellent ground for camp, close to the town: the lines of our brigade were on a green as level as a billiard-table, shaded by large trees; and, by making our huts on the banks of the river, we had only to take a swim and lie down again, whenever we felt it too hot.

17th.—Received orders to advance the next day.

On the 18th we marched about five leagues, and bivouacqued in the forest, on the banks of the Tieter.

19th. — Continued to advance through the forest; and, after a fatiguing march of eight leagues, halted for the night near the river. Our position was sheltered by a range of mountains covered with snow, which appeared as if close to us, though at the distance of about twelve miles. The day being clear, we had a distinct view of their summits, the height of which is so immense, that we perceived a few small clouds hanging near them in the sky, without reaching above one third of their stupendous elevation.

After pursuing our march for some time, on the 20th we got clear of the forest, and passed a plain of above three leagues in extent; the dry sand of which strongly reflected the intense heat of the day, without affording us the shelter of a single tree.

Leaving the town of Oropeza to our left,

we passed for the night near Lugo-Terra, situated on the same chain of hills. A large pomegranate-tree here saved some of us the trouble of building a hut, and thus made amends for the late barrenness of the sultry plain.—We here received information that five hundred French cavalry, sent on a foraging party, had quitted Lugo-Terra on the day before our arrival.—General ANSON's brigade, with four regiments of infantry, were on the advance.

On the 21st we were passed by the whole of the Spanish army, amounting to at least forty-two thousand. Their infantry, in part only, had a good appearance : but many of their cavalry were in a ragged state, without boots, and some of them literally with bare feet. Their horses, though slight, were in other respects good ; yet with bad appointments, ill put on ; insomuch, that their stirrups were so long as hardly to be reached with the toe pointed down.

We remained saddled, ready to turn out on the shortest notice.—In the evening we

marched on. Having passed Oropesa, the whole British army was drawn up, for General CUESTA's inspection, and afterwards picquetted in the contiguous fields. Our station was close to a small village, through which we had passed.

We came up with the Spanish troops on the 22d, whom we found engaged in a skirmish on an immense plain. Our army soon supported them in great force, advancing in readiness to give the enemy battle; but they continued to retreat through Talavera, which they evacuated, with the loss of a few men; and fell back to a strong position above a league from it, on the other side of the Tagus. We remained *bivouacqued* between Talavera and the Alberche, in readiness to advance.

This was a flogging day for the troops; for, after being up nearly all the preceding night, we had begun our march at four in the morning; and it was near seven in the evening when we had halted. An hour then elapsed before any provision could be

got ; and *that* some of us had to leave to go on picquet, which kept us on the alert all night. — In the interim, we heard that our cavalry in advance near the Alberche (the 23d Dragoons and 1st Hussars of the King's German Legion) had been fired on from a masked battery, near to which they advanced to attack a small body of the enemy, drawn up as if with an intention of resisting. This brigade lost ten horses ; but, fortunately, no men were killed. And, we were told, that about the same time Sir ARTHUR had a narrow escape while reconnoitring ; having been fired at with a three-pound shot, which cut a bough from a tree close to his head.

'On the 23d we received orders to march at five ; but these were countermanded, and our advance was postponed till the following day ; in consequence, as we were afterwards told, of General CUESTA's unwillingness to go forward — for various reasons — *all beyond the comprehension of those*, to whom the immediate attack promised every success !

In the evening, we heard that the French had occupied a very strong position (according to report, with entrenchments) about a league and a half from the town; and that their army, calculated at nearly thirty thousand, was to be reinforced by twelve thousand more. We had not the smallest doubt but a very severe action would take place, as it was the known determination of Sir ARTHUR to attack them early the following morning.

24th.—After hearing the road in one continued rattle all night, with the marching of artillery, we turned out at two A.M. With the infantry in advance, we moved on, till the approach of day. The cavalry then halted, and dismounted, while the front of the British column, which extended considerably above a league, was fording the river to the left; and the Spaniards, on the right, passing the bridge, under the heights. We expected every moment to hear a tremendous cannonading; till, after waiting some time, uncertain what could occasion the delay of the attack, we received infor-

mation that the French had retreated during the night. In consequence of this, our orders were to return to the environs of Talavera, and there to remain picquetted till further instructions. The Spanish army was in advance.

Talavera is a large town, with rather intricate streets, and was formerly celebrated for its silk-manufactory. Most of the inhabitants have been driven out by the late excesses of the French. Close to our camp were the ruins of a most extensive and beautiful amphitheatre: the rotunda appeared to have been occupied by cavalry. Here also the remains of a large church are added to the general marks of dilapidation.

On the 25th and 26th we remained encamped round Talavera, destitute of almost every article of provision. On the latter day, the advanced guard of General Cuesta was driven from its position near Torrijos, when his army retired to the right bank of the Alberche. After this, all the

movements of the enemy indicated the design of a general action.

At one in the morning of the 27th, the cavalry were ordered to make a patrol. We marched in the dark; and at day-break arrived at the bank of the river Alberche, opposite the spot where the French had been lately encamped. We then halted, waiting for further orders, and hearing various reports:—some asserted that our picquets were driven in by the enemy; others, that the Spanish troops in front, with General MACKENZIE's division, were engaged: but the prevailing opinion was, that the French had entirely retreated, and that we should see no more of them till *we got near Madrid.*

After a suspense of about three hours, we received orders to advance, and cross the river. Before we had marched a league, we met all the baggage of the advanced posts on the return, and the infantry retreating. The division thus pressed was that of General MACKENZIE, which was attacked

and infantry, the latter of whom were engaged nearly all night; and a little before dark the enemy made an attempt, with Polish cavalry, to break through the Spanish lines, and enter Talavera. On this the Spaniards opened a fire from right to left, by which these Poles were put to flight.—Our cavalry were then in the rear.

Formed in open column, we laid down, with our horses' bridles round our arms, till midnight, when we were roused by a sharp firing on the left. This was occasioned by an attempt of the enemy to gain possession of the height occupied by the division of General HILL. After an obstinate struggle, and a momentary appearance of success, they were repulsed in a very spirited manner by the bayonet. Whole battalions of the enemy had got into our line; some calling out that they were "Spanish;" and others, that they were "Germans deserting;" our old soldiers, however, soon discovered their "*ruse de guerre*," and gave them enough of coming to close quarters.

28th.—About two o'clock in the morning our attention was again called to a very heavy firing from the wood in front of Talavera. The Spaniards, as we afterwards learnt, had opened their fire on their own *videttes*, whom, from the darkness of the night, they had mistaken for the enemy. Similar mistakes occurred throughout the armies.

During the night-engagements, our battalions, as well as those of the enemy, fought with such determined fury, as frequently to close in, and beat out each other's brains with their muskets.

At half past five A. M. the attack was renewed on General HILL's position, and was again repelled with distinguished bravery.—The two armies then continued sharply engaged till about eleven o'clock, when the attack of the French was suspended. They then rested their troops; and, we heard, cooked their dinners in the field of battle.—We were at the same time cheered with the welcome appearance of

some wine, which, with a little bread, was issued to our troops.

About noon the engagement was renewed, and became general; when the firing of musketry was heard, on all sides, like the roll of a drum, with scarcely a moment's intermission, accompanied by a heavy cannonade; and thus continued during the remainder of the day.—Our infantry could not but suffer most severely during such a general slaughter: several regiments, on both sides, were nearly cut to pieces, many companies being reduced from seventy-five to nine or ten men.—The dragoons on the right did not come forward till the afternoon, when they were called on to support General SHERBROOKE's division. After making our way through a grove of olives in some confusion, we gained the open ground, and had to form under an incessant fire of artillery and musketry; the small shot literally pouring in like a shower of hail.—On the left of the line were the 23d Dragoons and 1st German Hussars, who advanced against some French

columns, which were marching on General HILL's division by way of the valley. This brigade was ordered to charge; but the enemy, having soon formed in two solid squares, were too well prepared for their reception; and, to increase the disadvantages under which this attack was made, there was, between these regiments and the enemy, a large ditch. Notwithstanding the confusion this occasioned, the 23d Dragoons persevered in the charge; and, though with a most serious loss, penetrated the French battalions *.

I here assert, that several of the Spanish cavalry *ran away*: some of whom were *seen robbing* the poor women belonging to the British army, whom they found on the road, crying, and anxiously alarmed for the fate of their husbands. One poor wretch (of our regiment) they not only plundered of every thing in her possession, but took her very clothes, and an ass, on which, from

* The ground where this attack was made, &c., will be seen in the Plan.

her infirmity, she was obliged to travel. The cruelty practised by some of our allies exceeded every thing that can be conceived. I was informed — and I believe it — that, after robbing, stripping, and putting to death, several of our wounded, a party of them had the impudence to appear before our officers, relating their own enormities, with seeming horror, and imputing them to the French. Their guilt appeared manifest, however, from the appointments of the unfortunate sufferers being found in their possession. — Added to this, so completely did the Spaniards in general monopolise every article of provision, that, to the period above described, many of us had been nearly three days without receiving bread, or any kind of sustenance. This may in some measure, perhaps, be attributed to a want of exertion in many of our commissariat.

To return from this digression.—The battle raged, with equal obstinacy on both sides, till the close of day; when, after a most sanguinary contest, the action ceased; each party maintaining the same position.—

During the night the enemy retreated, and crossed the river Alberché in perfect order; leaving us in possession of the field of battle.

Thus the hard-fought action was decidedly gained by the matchless bravery of British troops. Nothing could exceed the valour of our infantry and cavalry during the whole of the above engagements; and our artillery was also highly conspicuous, though labouring under the disadvantage of having no horses in reserve.—The effect of Colonel SHARPNELL's shells was fatally ruinous to the enemy's columns, which by these were frequently broken: but it was lamentable, during the day, to see the fuzes set fire to the grass, by which many of the wounded were burnt.—We had thirty pieces of artillery—viz. nineteen six-pounders, five five-and-half inch howitzers, and six three-pounders. The French had upwards of sixty pieces of cannon, most of which were eight-pounders: and, it must be observed, they were so directed towards the British,

that scarcely a shot was fired at the Spaniards during the whole of the 28th.

In taking further notice of our allies, I much wish that what I have to say of them was at all in their praise. Their numbers amounted to between thirty and forty thousand effective in the field. During the whole of the attack on the 28th (directed entirely against the British line), they remained almost wholly inactive*—except a great number of them whom I, and indeed most of the British officers, saw *running away*.—Throughout the engagement, numbers of the Spaniards were constantly disappearing. We heard of two regiments, in particular, who ran away on the evening of the 27th, frightened by the firing of their own troops on the right; and the posts from

* Feeling myself bound, as well as fully disposed, to make mention of what exceptions I saw, or even heard of, I have to name two Spanish battalions, under General WHITTINGHAM, who came forward to support the Guards; some squadrons of cavalry on our left; with General BASSECOURT's division, and part of their artillery.

which they deserted were occupied, by command of Sir ARTHUR, with troops from the second line.—Piles of Spanish arms were left loaded in the field.

From what I am going to add, it may be ascertained, that the inhabitants of Talavera possessed as little humanity, as the generality of the *heroes* had shown disposition for the combat, whilst posted to our right, for its nominal defence.—About an hour before the close of the last engagement, it was my chance to receive a wound: in consequence, I was carried to Talavera; and, on my arrival, the Spaniards refused to let me come within their thresholds. Thus was I left, bleeding, in the street; surrounded by the most pitiable and horrid objects that can be imagined, who were lying on the pavement, screaming and groaning, without the soothings of compassion or succour of any kind.—At length I proved more fortunate than my fellow-sufferers, through the kind assistance of an officer, who, being on hospital guard, had a billet, and gave me

up his bed—which (we having for nineteen previous nights slept in the fields, and generally without shelter) was rendered a novelty. Here I remained, reflecting, during a sleepless night, on the many who had to endure far worse than myself.

My case, in being refused admission at Talavera, was by no means a singular one. An officer, who *had a billet* there, which he had occupied some time, was brought back to it in a predicament similar to my own : like myself, he was refused the shelter of a roof, and left fainting in the streets, till some soldiers forced open the door.

After the battle, we heard that the French army had consisted of forty-eight thousand (a point since ascertained), and that JOSEPH BUONAPARTE had been descried by one of Sir ARTHUR's staff.—The enemy sustained the loss of more than ten thousand men, with that of twenty pieces of brass cannon, and five standards.—We entered the field eighteen thousand three hundred strong;

and our loss, as will appear by the following returns, fell very heavy, on the officers as well as privates.

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
General Staff	5	9	—
Lieut.-Colonels	2	10	2
Majors	1	12	—
Captains	7	53	5
Lieutenants	15	71	3
Cornets and Ensigns	3	34	1
Adjutants	1	6	—
Sergeants	28	165	15
Drummers	4	16	9
Rank and File	735	3537	620
Total	<hr/> 801	<hr/> 3913	<hr/> 653

Recapitulation.

Killed	801
Wounded	3913
Missing	653
Grand Total	<hr/> 5367

*The following is an abstract of the total loss of
the respective regiments (including officers,
non-commissioned officers, and privates) in
killed, wounded, and missing, in the battles
of Talavera.*

General Staff	14
3d Dragoon Guards	3
4th Dragoons	12
14th Light Dragoons	16
18th Ditto	14
23d Ditto	207
1st Ditto (German Legion)	42
Royal British Artillery	34
Royal German Artillery	34
Royal Engineers	2
Royal Staff Corps	2
1st Battalion Coldstream	297
1st Battalion 3d Guards	322
3d Foot	142
2d Battalion 7th Foot	65
2d Ditto 24th	355
1st Ditto 29th	186
2d Ditto 31st	249
1st Ditto 40th	58
1st Ditto 45th	193
<hr/>	
Carried forward	2247

	Brought forward	2247
1st Battalion 48th	176	
2d Ditto ditto	71	
2d Ditto 59d	39	
5th Ditto 60th	77	
1st Ditto 61st	272	
2d Ditto 68th	128	
2d Ditto 83d	288	
2d Ditto 87th	253	
1st Ditto 88th	140	
1st Ditto 97th	52	
1st Ditto Detachments	274	
2d Ditto ditto	21	
1st Line Batt. German Legion	300	
1st and 2d Light Batt. ditto	79	
2d Line Batt. ditto	390	
5th Ditto ditto	300	
7th Ditto ditto	256	
Total	<u>5367</u>	

Before the morning of the 29th the enemy had effected their retreat beyond the Alberché; and our men were, during the day, busily employed in burying the dead, and conveying the wounded into the town. It is painful to record, that the streets still contained pitiable wretches, who had lain in torture during the night, mixed with the bodies of those who had expired. Some officers, on their return from exploring the field of battle, described the sight of dismembered limbs, eviscerated and otherwise mangled bodies, as too horrible for contemplation; and even expressed their regret at having witnessed the scene.

30th.—Though the whole of the preceding day and night had been occupied in removing the wounded, several still remained amidst the slaughter: and their numbers were so considerable, in proportion to the surgeons, that many of those removed had not been dressed; and even several necessary amputations remained inevitably unperformed; whilst other sufferers were brought in throughout the day and night.

By the 31st the French had retreated about two leagues; and our advanced posts were formed by General CRAUFURD's light brigade, and a troop of horse artillery, which had arrived from Lisbon on the 29th.

August 2.—This evening our army received orders to march at four o'clock the next morning; and on the 3d fell back to Orosepeza.

Confined to my bed since the 28th, I lost the pleasure of being with my regiment, and am precluded from giving a regular diary of its movements; it is, however, essential, briefly to state what became of the army. Sir ARTHUR, finding that Marshal SOULT was in great force at Placentia, marched to Orosepeza, with a view of attacking him; but finding that the *Spanish army*, which were left to cover our sick and wounded, *had also retired* on Orosepeza, it was then found expedient to change the route, and cross the Tagus at Puento del Arzobispo, and thus secure a retreat on Portugal.— Notwithstanding our videttes were, at one

time, within a league of the enemy, he suffered them to pass unmolested; and our army effected a steady retreat; having previously sent on about two hundred carts, containing a part of the wounded, which were frequently stopped to throw off those who died on the road.

The army having reached its destination (in an exhausted state, from fatigue, and scarcity of provision), was stationed as follows:—Head-Quarters at Badajos;—General SHERBROOKE's division from Lobau to Merida, with a German brigade of artillery at the former, and the troops of horse artillery, with some cavalry, at the latter place;—the light infantry brigade at Portalegre and Neisa; and some other brigades near Campo Mayor and Albuquerque;—four brigades of artillery encamped near Badajos; and the 40th regiment in the town;—the light dragoons (nearly dismounted) at and near Villa Viçoza.—The sick were sent into hospital at Elvas; to which place the medical staff with the army, and those left at Lisbon, repaired.

Sd.—On the retreat of the army from Talavera I was left in bed, and remained uninformed of the circumstance till ten o'clock this day.—Soon after, a Surgeon came, and consoled me by saying the French were not likely to return, and that our army had fallen back for the purpose of getting better supplies during their halt; but that, at all events, *my* attempting to move would be attended with the almost certainty of losing my life.—The Surgeon had not left the room three hours, when my man ran in, to say the French were close to the town, and that every one who was able to stir was making the best of his way to the rear. I had but a short time to take my choice of falling into the hands of the enemy a perfect cripple, or moving at the risk of dying on the road. Preferring freedom to captivity, under any circumstances, I soon decided to attempt a retreat; — was then taken out of bed, and carried down stairs; and, with pillows fixed to the saddle, was just able to support myself on a horse, — my man leading him at a slow walk, under a broiling sun, towards Oropeza.—Before proceeding

far in the town, I was informed that Calera was the point to which the sick were ordered : accordingly my march was directed for that place ; whither there was little difficulty in finding my way, the road being soon crowded with wounded men. After having travelled a few miles, the pain occasioned by the motion of the horse was less acute ; and by having recourse to a calabash of vinegar and water whenever I was likely to faint, I supported myself wonderfully well. —On reaching Calera, we found that Puente del Arzobispo was the place of destination for the sick ; which occasioned my journey that night to be four leagues farther. The other wounded men had got so far a-head, that I was several times near being lost on the heath, and with difficulty reached Arzobispo by eleven o'clock. The people were gone to bed, and only one light was to be seen. The *Alcalde* (or Constable) was soon found, who, after an apparent altercation with a woman, desired me to go into the cabin containing the light, and went away. On my approaching the door, the *heroine* flew at me like a tigress, with a *Patriot* in

her rear to support her. She positively refused admission, though she saw me in a fainting state, and knew my request was only for permission to lie on some straw in the passage.—During this squabble my head turned giddy, and had not my man supported me, I should have fallen off the horse. At this moment a dragoon came up, who, having his hands disengaged, soon put the *Patriot* and his *Senora* to flight, and helped me into the house. Here, laid on some straw by the side of a sick Spaniard, I remained the night. My other servants and horses were lost, and slept on the heath; but, by the greatest accident, found me out in the morning.

4th.—I was again put on horseback, at five o'clock A. M. On reaching the further end of the town, whence the sick were expected to proceed, they had not then received instructions, and were waiting the arrival of a field officer, who was deputed to take them in charge. I then entered another house, where, with some opposition,

a mattress was got, on which I laid till a wounded officer came by, who was retreating with his family, and we proceeded together to Navallé Morelecho.

5th.—Continued our march to Lasteralia, where we rested, and had some tea.—On our way to this place the cart of my party broke down; and we were under the necessity of waiting till a car was pressed, and wild bullocks were driven from the mountains, to bring on the baggage.—All difficulties being overcome, we proceeded. Faint with the heat of the day, I was obliged to be placed in a calèche; and the road being one of the roughest that ever wheels travelled, I was in torture the whole way. The hip bone, which a rifle-ball had gone through and shattered, and the muscles of my back, where it was then lodged, were bumped with the greatest violence against the hard sides of the carriage; and my riding on horseback again that day was totally out of the question, as the pain suffered already had made me so weak I could not have sup-

ported myself.—At last, we reached a village, the name of which (I believe) is Moyathis. Here we passed the night.

6th.—The carriage-road extending no farther than this place, my friends were obliged to return all the way back to Arzobispo; and were almost in the face of the French videttes, who very soon after drove the Spaniards from that place. I determined on continuing through the mountains, and travelling (so long as life permitted me) on a small mule. My object was to make for Truxillo: as, if the army were suffered to retire unmolested; or, on the other hand, held the enemy in check; the odds were, that, by a forced march, I could reach the point before them: and if compelled to a precipitate retreat, I must at all events be made prisoner.—I then started, taking my chance whether Truxillo would be found occupied by French or British troops.

This day (being joined by a wounded officer of infantry) we began to encounter the passes of the Guadalupe Mountains.

Here we went sometimes over solid rocks, where our mules were every moment stumbling; and at others over the roughest stones, interspersed with deep holes: then down-descents of heights, where the animals could scarcely keep on their legs: and occasionally travelling the sides of precipices, by the mere pass of a goat-track:—a pleasant situation for a man with an empty stomach and broken bones!!!—We had a guide, or never should have been able to make out the passes; and the whole country being uninhabited *, we could have found no one to direct us.—After a broiling and exhausting march, we late at night reached Allia; where we had to wait a long time before there could be got a billet.

7th.—Continued our march to Logrosan; and on the 8th to Solita. Here they would neither give nor sell us any thing, till we made them understand that I was a Brigadier of Cavalry, and that my troops were

* A region destitute of every living creature, except a number of Spanish cavalry, by whom we were nearly rode over.

coming in the next day; who, if our requisitions were refused, I would order to take the *Alcalde* prisoner, and send him to England.—On this we had brought us the produce of the village, with a thousand apologies, and benefited by a great deal of *pressed* civility.

9th.—Arrived at Truxillo, where we were cheered by the sight of English soldiers, and found ourselves two leagues in *rear* of the *British* army.

This town brings you again into the road from Madrid to Lisbon. It is a large place, torn to pieces by the French: has some good houses; and is famous for having given birth to Pizarro.

During our pass through this desert country, we were literally starving, and had the utmost difficulty in procuring bread, even at an *imposing price*: as to wine or spirits, they were not to be heard of; and there was scarcely a bit of meat to be bought. Our horses and mules, which were chiefly

fed with stale chaff, were nearly famished, as well as ourselves. For my own part, I believe my life was owing to the *goats*: their owners, the *Patriots*, refusing to *sell me a little milk*, I contrived to get this nourishment by stealth; making the guide fill my bottle every day, when we came to a herd of these animals. — To complete this wretched retreat, we were every where annoyed with fleas, bugs, and body lice.

10th. — Proceeded on my journey, passing through Santa Cruz; and, after a hard and hot day's march, arrived at Meajados; where, what with fasting and fatigue, I was ready to drop from the mule. We found the people in this place (if possible) more uncivil than at others *: my servants were

* A brother officer, who was dangerously ill of a fever brought on by travelling with a severe wound, was here laid on the floor of a room, while his servant went for medical assistance. The man, having no safer place to deposit his master's baggage, laid it somewhere near him: the *Patriots*, taking advantage of the man's absence and the officer's situation, carried a great part of it off; robbing him, not only of his helmet and appointments (*the very articles used in defence of their country*), but of several things which, from being a

an hour before they could get a billet; during which time I was laid on the pavement, where the *Patriots* refused me even a pillow, and with the greatest reluctance brought out a little water. A mob had soon assembled round me, poking in their stinking heads as if a basket of cheap fish were selling in the street.—At last I got into the house of one of the Junta, who *fully answered my expectations!*

11th.—At seven in the evening, having hired mules to carry my men, two of whom had been forced to walk the whole journey with their feet quite raw, I continued my march; and by three in the morning reached Santo Padro; where I saw a light at a post-house, begged admission, and was laid on a mattress for an hour.—Having then sufficiently recruited myself, I started for Merida, and arrived at seven o'clock; making my march exactly twelve hours.

On entering this place, the traveller is cripple, he more particularly required.—The same officer met with similar treatment at other places.

presented with fine ruins of an aqueduct; near which there is, still passable, a Roman bridge.—Merida contains an ancient temple, formerly dedicated to Mars, but since devoted to Christian worship; also a subterraneous tunnel, leading from the river.

I was here billeted in the house of a Donna, who told us she was the wife of a Brigadier. Being in much want of sleep, I was immediately put to bed; but had scarcely got warm, when myriads of—I knew not what—were crawling over me. By making a great effort, I raised myself sufficiently to throw off the bed-clothes, and found them to be bugs. Being unable to help myself, I began bawling, and *at last* was heard; taken out of bed; and *stuck up* in an arm-chair, till another *cama* was provided.

13th.—We rested here during this day; but not wishing to pass another night in the place, I purposed starting in the cool of the evening. Finding myself very weak, from excessive fatigue and having my rest inter-

rupted, I attempted to hire a car, but without success. My *landlady*, who showed a great deal of pretended civility, and affected to pity me extremely, assured me there was no sort of conveyance to be had, and expressed her regret at having nothing of the kind to offer. Shortly after, a large car, with two fine mules, came to the door, and was unloaded of sacks. In the mean time my fellow-traveller hobbled off to the Alcalde; got a warrant to press the same; and we detained it in our possession. This machine proved to be the property of the old woman, who became so enraged, that her palavre burst into the furies of a vixen.— We then procured asses for our men, and at eleven at night got *our convoy under weigh*: at one, in the afternoon of the 14th, we arrived at Badajos. Having got into a billet, I sent for the car-driver, to remunerate him for his trouble, and pay for his expences back to Merida; but he had saved me this cost, by decamping with his car and mules the moment my men had left him — I suppose, through *fear* of his getting pressed into Portugal.

My situation prevented me from seeing any thing of Badajos, or indeed of other places, further than what was presented to my view while I passed by. This city I observed to be eminently situated, and on the south of the Guadiana : it is strongly fortified, and the frontier town next Portugal ; to reach which you pass the Guadiana by a fine Roman bridge considerably more than one-third of a mile in length.

15th.—Hired a calêche, and went to Elvas *. — On our entering Portugal *from Spain*, the sudden transition from haughtiness to civility is scarcely to be credited. On being interrogated by the guard, which is usual in a frontier town, I remained in the street, while my servant went to General Leita, the Commandant and Governor, to inform him who I was, and explain my situation. He immediately sent down his

* This city, with its grand aqueduct and cistern, fortifications, convents, academy, churches, &c. I regret having been unable to survey ; and have here again to apologize for the deficiency of my narrative ; for I am particularly unwilling to supply the defect of my own observation by reference to travels or history of the country.

Brigade-Major, with directions to assist me, and to show me every kind of attention.— I was conducted to a princely billet, in the house of a *Donnana Fortunata*; where I received great kindness, and had every luxury brought to my bed-side, with the attendance of two servants.

The General did me the honour to send his nephew, with his compliments, offering any thing I might want: and on hearing I had expressed a wish to hire a conveyance for the next day, he insisted on my taking *his carriage*, and using it as far as I thought proper;—*a liberality of conduct perfectly according with General Leita's well-known character.*

On the morning of the 16th, the carriage and four, with three servants, drove up to the gate, while we were partaking of an excellent breakfast, which had been prepared for us before day-light. — About half past five we started; and while passing out of the garrison the respect paid us was very entertaining. By natives hat in hand, and

guards turning out, we received every mark of honour that could be shown a Prince.

We soon reached Estramos, where we were received by a Portuguese orderly, whom the General had sent on to provide a billet.

17th.—Being greatly recruited by our comparatively easy mode of travelling the preceding day, we took leave of our fine equipage, and proceeded to Arrayolos.

18th.—Passed Monté Mornovo, and reached Vendas Novas : where, at first, we could get no cover for ourselves or horses—the *juis de foro* (or constable) being at Lisbon, and the natives refusing to admit us without an order. We soon settled this point, by selecting the best *casa* we could find, and *forcing* a billet. The house we were in was contiguous to a long range of buildings which formed an ancient *royal residence*. This, we were told, the Prince Regent occasionally used as a hunting seat.

19th.—Went through Peagones and Rivas, and arrived at Aldea Galega; where we most heartily rejoiced, having accomplished the *last stage* of our truly miserable and tormenting journey.

20th.—We embarked in a large boat, which, in an hour and a half, sailed across the Tagus, and brought us to the quay at Lisbon.—The man we had sent forward to provide for us, having been so long on short allowance, that, according to the *old excuse*, *half a pint got in his head*, was neither to be seen nor heard of.—After lying for three hours in the boat, and being surveyed by a staring multitude (like a fresh-caught sturgeon by the Cockneys, on the banks of the Thames), I gave up entering a billet for *that day*, and was taken to Owen's hotel.

Our happy transmigration, which we performed in eighteen days, amounted to eighty-eight leagues.—Their leagues are rated at about four and one-fifth English miles, though many of them far exceed that distance.

The number of leagues between each place are as follow :—

SPAIN.

From	To	Leagues.
	Talavera de la Reyna	
Puente del Arzobispo		7
Navalle Morelecho		2
Moyathis		4
Allia		5
Logrosan		5
Solita		4
Truxillo		5
Meajados		6
Merida		8
Badajos		9

PORTUGAL.

Elvas	3	On the great road from Madrid to Lisbon.
Estramos	6	
Arrayolos	6	
Vendas Novas	7	
Aldea Galega	8	
Passage to Lisbon	3	
Total	88	

Probably I should never have surmounted this journey, had it not been for repeated fomentations of hot water on my first arrival at each place; which, by counter-acting any additional inflammation that might have been brought on from exertion, enabled me to proceed. The pain, nevertheless, was incessant; and, from being teased with flies by day and vermin by night, I could not get the necessary rest even for a person in health. This, added to the scarcity of almost every thing I could eat, had reduced me to a perfect skeleton.

22d.—I was removed to an excellent billet.

In a few days after, all these exertions began to operate on my health; and the heat of the season greatly tended to increase the illness. The weather, which had for some time been intensely hot, then became intolerable; and the evenings so close as to be quite oppressive. We were obliged to remain almost suffocated, from having the

windows shut, to avoid letting in myriads of gnats and other insects, that would have tormented us during the night. My sickness soon increased to that degree as to prevent my taking any nourishment ; and my wound became so incessantly painful as, in spite of opiates, to deprive me of sleep almost every night.

I lodged in the house of a lady of distinction, to whom I consider myself much indebted for her most polite attention. It was the study of this lady to make me as comfortable as my infirmity would admit of, and procure for me every thing I could wish : in *both*, she amply succeeded, having an establishment where nothing could be wanting.

September 14.—Continued very ill. After losing a fortnight of my leave, waiting for a conveyance to England, I learnt that a fleet of empty transports were ordered to sail for Portsmouth, under convoy of the Emerald frigate. I had the good fortune to get a passage ; for procuring which I am under

many obligations to my hostess, and also for the kindest exertion on the part of the British Minister. Having my choice of the fleet, I fixed on a ship which had good accommodation for myself and horses; and, what is not readily to be met with, a very pleasant and obliging man for a captain.

15th.—Being informed that the convoy were likely to sail early the next morning, at two this afternoon I dispatched a soldier with baggage, in a Portuguese boat. — This man was directed to bring back with him, immediately, the ship's long-boat, so as to embark my horses before sun-set; but he never returned; and I, expecting him every moment, delayed sending after him till it was too late to get a boat. The night was thus passed in suspense.

16th.—Early this morning I was roused out of bed, by being told that the fleet were on the point of sailing, and the ship's boat was waiting for me. I was carried out, half undressed, and, when in the act of getting

into the boat, with my mind made up to the loss of all my baggage, the dragoon who had taken it made his appearance, informing me it was safely deposited on board.—It seemed this man had had a narrow escape. On his returning the preceding evening, there came on so hard a gale that the boat and crew were nearly swamped, and had been drifted to the opposite side of the Tagus, where they lay out all night. I then had my horses galloped to Lisbon, directing the men who went with them to offer any price for a boat, and attempt (what I despaired of) getting them on board. This was so well managed, that they arrived almost immediately after me, and were embarked when we were in the very act of getting under weigh. I then, notwithstanding this hurry, brought off every thing, but my stock of live poultry, which was left behind through the stupidity—or, perhaps, *kept behind*, through the *cunning*—of a blundering Irish dragoon.

About eleven o'clock we sailed out of the

Tagus with a northerly breeze, working to westward for a good offing and the chance of another wind.

17th and 18th.—The wind continued unfavourable.

19th.—This day, when finding myself almost *at the point of death* for want of surgical assistance, there occurred *for me* a most providential circumstance:—It suddenly came on so calm, that boats could pass from ship to ship, and the Commodore very kindly came along-side, to offer any thing he had that I might want. I requested the attendance of his Surgeon, who was immediately put on board. After examining my wound, he sent the boat back for his Assistant and instruments, and opened the muscles of my back, where it was probable a mortification would speedily have taken place; and had not this operation been performed, I should have died on the voyage.—I became so faint that they were obliged to postpone doing any thing farther that day:

from what was effected, I found almost immediate relief.

In the evening there came on a light breeze, fair for England.

20th.—The Surgeons came on board again, and with some difficulty extracted the ball, which had been considerably flattened by passing through the muscles and bone.

The kindness of our Commodore cannot pass unobserved, and will by me be ever remembered with gratitude. In addition to every possible attention paid me during the voyage, he sent over sea-stock enough for half the ship's company, begging me to ask for any thing I might happen to fancy.

21st.—The wind increased, and blew directly fair for England.—We this day entered the Bay of Biscay, where we ran nine knots an hour, during the night, under very little sail.

22d, 23d, and 24th.—The wind continued very fair.—In order to keep well clear of Ushant, we *steered a westerly course*, sailing some distance in the Atlantic.

25th.—Opened the Channel; and at nine o'clock A. M. the ship's carpenter got his glass of grog, for first discovering the Lizard Point.—We soon passed Falmouth, briskly scudding up Channel.

26th.—We had very little wind till the afternoon, when a fine breeze sprung up, and soon brought us in sight of the Isle of Wight; and about eight that evening we dropped anchor at Spithead.

It blew a hurricane all night, and we were at one time in great danger. A large ship, having broke her cable, came down with wind and tide, and got foul of us about midnight.

Diary of our Passage from Lisbon to Spithead.

From mid-day on Saturday to	Miles in 24 hours.
Mid-day on Sunday 17th	81
..... 18th	83
..... 19th	61
..... 20th	93
..... 21st	51
..... 22d	138
..... 23d	168
..... 24th	151
..... 25th	162
..... 26th	140
Total made good	<u>1128</u>

N. B. Taking the chart in a direct line crossing Cape Fisterra, we made the distance 704 miles.

27th.—It blew so hard all the morning, that even the sailors would not venture in a boat. I remained imprisoned in the cabin, with stale provision, tantalised by viewing the *Land of Luxury* from the window; and with so little hope of getting on shore, that my mind was reconciled to lying with my sore sides another night on hard boards. In the evening, however, though still very rough, the wind rather abated, and I was determined to complete my emancipation. The ship continued rolling to that degree it was impossible to let me down along-side; but I was *lowered aft, in the stern-boat*, which I expected every moment would turn upside down, and empty out me and my personal property, like the contents of a *Lisbon garret-pail*. However, as in other narrow escapes, I came off well; and, having surmounted every danger and difficulty with the most providential success, landed safe in *the most enviable Island under Heaven!*

After feasting on an English dinner at Portsmouth, I set off in a chaise, which li-

terally appeared to fly, after the cravelling conveyances of Spain and Portugal.

On the 28th (the very day two months from the battle of Talavera) I happily reached my final destination.

Such has been my situation, that it has necessarily occasioned me, in the foregoing pages, to appear more of the egotist than might be wished; but, for the narrative to be at all connected, it was scarcely to be avoided, and was perhaps the least evil that could be adopted.

By having recounted a few well-testified anecdotes of the Spaniards, I do not mean to assert that there are none of their nation who look upon a British soldier with esteem; but the fact intended to be here established

is,—that it was not *my* good fortune to behold any trace of kindness towards us: on the contrary, in *all places*, *apathy*; in *some*, a *seemingly confirmed disgust*.

FINIS.

and we enjoyed it very much. I have
no time to talk now, but I will write you again
when I get home. Again my regards to all.

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